

Home News

Queen outlines Jordan's human development strides

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participating in a two-day meeting in Paris on strategies to accelerate human development, Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday presented a paper highlighting Jordan's achievements in promoting human development and the problems faced by the country as a result of social, economic and political constraints.

Queen Noor is a member of the International Commission on Peace and Food, which is organising the meeting of the Working Group on Strategies to Accelerate Human Development.

The paper incorporated three case studies as practical and workable models for accelerating human development, with an emphasis on women and rural underprivileged communities.

The case studies include the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project and the Jordan River Enterprise, the Medicinal Herbs Scheme in Bani Kinnanah and the Quality of Life Project, all initiated by the Noor Al-Husseini Foundation and designed as prototype development models.

Founded in April 1989, the International Commission on Peace and Food is an independent non-political, non-profit organisation of concerned scientists and professionals from 19 nations.

It works to promote world peace and international development by redirecting resources from military expenditures into practical programmes to achieve peace and political security for all nations, to fight the war against hunger, poverty and increased drug use worldwide, and to fund integrated and comprehensive efforts to protect the environment.

The chairman of the commission, Dr. Swaminathan, is the first recipient of the World Food Prize.

Members include former U.S. First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Nobel Peace laureate Norman Borlaug, as well as other distinguished members.

Much of the commission's activity is centred in the working groups, each of which is preparing a chapter for the final report to be presented at a meeting of all working groups of the commission at The Carter Center in October.

The final report will be presented at the Summit on Social Development which the United Nations is organising on the occasion of its 50th anniversary in 1995.

The Working Group on Strategies to Accelerate Human Development is discussing the importance of education for girls and women world-wide to improve family income, agricultural productivity, environmental clean-up, and demographic factors.

British Institute releases book on Roman, Islamic Amman

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After six years of excavations in Amman, British archaeologist Austair Northedge culminated his work in authoring a book entitled "Studies on Roman and Islamic Amman".

The book, the first comprehensive study of the archaeological history of the capital, covers three periods dating back to 2000-3000 B.C. until the rebuilding of Amman with the advent of the Circassians in 1880.

"The book is significant because it gathers all the history of archaeology in Amman, something not done before. It also publishes old pictures gathered from different archives," said William Lancaster, director of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History (BIAAH), at a press conference Wednesday.

Unlike other Jordanian cities, such as Jerash and Petra, in Amman ruins are not apparent and are lost amid the modernity of the capital, Mr. Lancaster added, stressing the hard work that went into the production of the book.

Traditionally, archaeologists were primarily concerned with Roman history in Amman, but recently there has been renewed interest in Islamic archaeology and Dr. Northedge's book reflects this new direction, he stated.

Dr. Northedge, a lecturer of Islamic art and archaeology at the Sorbonne in France, wrote the chapter on the history of Amman since Islam and until 1880, leaving the other two chapters dealing with the pre-Roman pre-Greek era and the Roman, and the coming of Islam era, to other specialists.

"Amman was a very important city under the Umayyads. It was the most important city in the area that is now Jordan... it was the centre of the governor," Dr. Northedge told reporters at the Royal Cultural Centre.

"It was the only time in Amman's history that it was a capital province of a great empire."

Thus, he said, two great monuments of the Umayyad period can be found in Amman: the Umayyad Congregational Mosque and the Umayyad Palace.

He drew similarities between the significance of Amman under the Umayyad rule and its current importance as a Jordanian city.

But, Dr. Northedge maintained that Amman's prominence began to decline with the downfall of the Umayyad empire.

Under the Abbasid and Fatimid periods, Amman passed through what Dr. Northedge described as a "period of economic recession," only to become "abandoned" by the sixteenth century and then was "rebuilt" once again after 1880 with the arrival of the first Circassian immigrants.

While Amman was dwindling as the primary city in Jordan, Karak followed by Salt began to occupy its place, he added.

The rise and fall of Amman as the capital city of Jordan is closely tied to the role Arab tribes play in the political power structure, Dr. Northedge explained.

The Umayyad rule, like the current Jordanian political system, he said, depended mainly on good relations with desert tribes.

Amman's proximity to the desert and to tribes thus allowed it to prosper. But with the advent of non-Arab empires in the region, the significance of the Arab tribes began to diminish, taking with it the importance given to Amman.

To celebrate the publication of Studies on Roman and Islamic Amman Volume I: History, Site and Architecture, the BIAAH will feature an exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan from July 25 to August 5, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The exhibition will later tour around Jordanian universities, and different secondary schools across the Kingdom.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

- Regent meets officers**
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday called at the Royal Force Command and held a meeting with senior air force officers. He was briefed on the air force's duties. The Regent Wednesday also sent a cable of good wishes to Poland's President Lech Walesa on his country's national day. Prince Hassan wished the president continued good health and happiness and further progress for the Polish people.
- Prince Abdullah visits PSD**
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein visited the Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday and met its Director Major General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan. He later toured the PSD's Communications Centre and was briefed on its services.
- Majali visits GHQ**
AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday visited Army Headquarters and discussed matters of concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces with Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- World Bank reviews projects**
AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting team from the World Bank Wednesday discussed with Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari the ministry's third transport project which entails new road projects and road maintenance. The two sides also reviewed the country's land transport strategies. The minister requested that Jordanian contractors be involved in the implementation of World Bank financed projects in Jordan.
- Syrian officials review posts**
AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting team from the Syrian Postal Department met Abdullah Al Jazi, the Ministry of Post and Communications secret-
- ary general and were briefed on Jordan's postal services. The focus of the Syrian team's interest was the process of channelling students' applications to universities through the post offices, a practice adopted in Jordan for the last several years.
- ICRC, PSD closer ties**
AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects for closer cooperation between the Amman office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Public Security Department (PSD) were discussed Wednesday by ICRC Head of Delegation in Amman Michel Ducruaux and PSD Director Abdul Rahman Al Udwan. The PSD seeks to cooperate with the ICRC in all humanitarian matters, said PSD chief.
- Hotel, restaurants shut down**
AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Health Committee in Amman Wednesday ordered the closure of Al Hilal Hotel and three restaurants in the Amman area, saying they had violated safety rules. The committee also issued warnings to another group of hotels and restaurants for similar violations.
- Zarqa rids streets of vendors**
ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Municipality Wednesday embarked on a general campaign to rid the city of street vendors, Mayor Yasser Omani said. The local police department was involved in the campaign, which followed numerous public complaints about problems caused as a result of the presence of these vendors who were said to be impeding the flow of traffic in some areas.
- Arab youth camp ends**
JERASH (Petra) — A week-long camp attended by 700 youngsters from Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Palestine, and Oman came to a close Wednesday. The youth, who had camped in Debbin, a wooded area near Jerash, were involved in handicraft work, farming and seminars and made trips to archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

Health Ministry issues anti-smoking advisory

Activists accuse 'vested interests' of preempting action

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health has issued a tough advisory calling for sweeping measures against smoking in public places, but officials as well as anti-smoking campaigners admit that the regulations are easier issued than enforced.

The instructions call for a total ban on smoking at all government offices and public sector institutions, including waiting areas for visitors and corridors, as well as indoor auditoriums and sports facilities.

Five-star and four-star restaurants are asked to segregate smokers and non-smokers. Others are asked not only to put up no-smoking signs, but also to request their clients not to smoke.

Violators are supposed to be reported to the nearest police station.

From a first look, the instructions cause alarm among smokers. But, as Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas explained, such instructions are issued every year as "a reminder" that Jordan does have regulations against smoking in public places.

"The fact is that these are regulations and not law," Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times. "Imagine the problem we will have if we sought to enforce them."

The number of cases where violators of the regulations are prosecuted is one or two every year, he said.

While Dr. Malhas did not detail the problems facing the authorities in implementing the strict enforcement of anti-smoking regulations, other officials and social workers accused "vested interests" of preempting decisive government action.

"Restaurant owners are a major lobbying group," said a senior official. "They could bring heavy pressure to bear upon the authorities since their business could be adversely affected by any ban against smoking in their establishments."

The tobacco industry in the country, as anywhere else, will "create such an uproar," added the official.

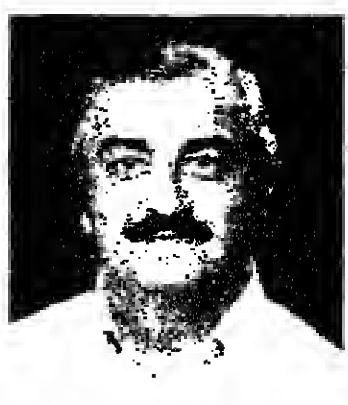
Dr. Malhas said it was up to the public to realise the dangers inherent in smoking and for smokers to ensure that they do not endanger the lives of others.

He pointed out that international studies have proved beyond doubt that "passive smoking" — non-smokers unconsciously forced to inhale smoke puffed out by smokers — was a major health hazard.

"Those who want to die of smoking-related diseases are welcome to do so," he said. "But they should not expose others around them to danger."

Dr. Zuhair Malhas, head of the Jordan Anti-Smoking Society, a former minister of health, criticised the government for not taking forceful action.

"There is no commitment at



Abdul Rahim Malhas



Zuhair Malhas

the government level," he said. "What commitment can you expect when senior officials and influential people have no interest in the issue?"

But, he warned, "the hazards of smoking are no longer a concern that is solely limited to the and-smoking society or any other organisation."

"It is ironic to see officials and the public mobilising themselves against epidemics such as cholera and do nothing to counter the dangers posed by smoking when it is well known that smoking poses much greater health hazards and economic losses than any epidemic," he said.

The former minister criticised the overall system, which he said, "allows people with vested interests in the tobacco industry assume senior government posts, including Cabinet posts."

"How can anyone expect these people to launch any initiative or set good models for others?"

Dr. Malhas cited as examples several unnamed officials who he said were occupying senior positions, including high posts in universities, but have interests in the tobacco industry.

"Can or will these people be committed to curbing smoking?"

The former minister, a renowned physician, welcomed the advisory issued by the Ministry of Health as a "timely reminder" of the health hazards inherent in smoking.

"I understand why and how the regulations cannot be enforced," said Dr. Malhas, who has served several terms as health minister.

"I think it is time the government enacted laws to enforce the regulations, and that will be a starting point."

However, he admitted that, it will be an uphill task given the

Australian meat imports to continue if they meet Jordan's specifications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will continue to import live sheep and meat from Australia provided they meet specifications in terms of weight and health, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal said Wednesday.

Speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation from Australia here to organise shipments of live sheep to Jordan, Dr. Kamal said Jordan has a standing committee comprising several government departments to examine incoming meat.

Australian Ambassador to Jordan Jonathan Sheppard said at the meeting the Australian government was committed to the Jordanian's required meat standards and specifications.

He said it would be good practice for the committee to stamp Australian meat so that customers can differentiate it from meat bought from other countries.

Senior government officials representing the departments responsible for importing and inspecting meat and sheep were present at the meeting.

The Australian team discussed meat-related issues with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad and reviewed Australian-Jordanian trade in general.

The delegation's visit came in the wake of a visit here earlier this month by a team representing Western Australia, led by Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Monty House, who concluded an agreement with the

Ministry deficit hurts water project plans

KARAK (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation huge financial deficit is obstructing efforts to implement its 1993 water projects, said Minister of Water and Irrigation Bassam Kakish Wednesday.

The public, official departments and organisations owe the ministry around JD11 million, and the ministry is trying to collect these fees to implement its plans, said the minister during an inspection tour of water projects in the southern Karak region.

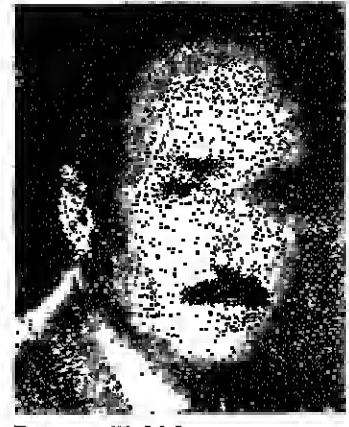
The ministry is also pursuing parallel efforts to obtain funding for its projects from the concerned financial departments in Jordan and is repairing and replacing the old water networks in different parts of the country, Mr. Kakish added.

But he noted that so far only the water network in Zarqa city has been replaced.

The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) announced earlier this week that work was underway now to replace old and worn out networks in Amman area and plans were set for replacements in other cities.

The minister was also quoted as saying in a press statement that Jordan would need up to JD100 million to replace all the water networks in order to save a considerable amount of water which is being lost through leakage.

Mr. Kakish who met with officials in Karak governorate said



Bassam Kakish

Jordan consumes up to 830 million cubic metres of water annually, but it is still in need of at least 280 million cubic metres more to meet current requirements.

Many citizens, said the minister, waste water for no reason during the summer, thus making it difficult for the Water Authority to supply sufficient amounts to the other areas.

He appealed to the public to ration water consumption and urged delinquent subscribers to pay their dues to the water authority.

Discussion with local Karak officials covered the general water situation and an outstanding dispute between the water authority and the Karak Municipality over the settlement of municipal installations.



FIRST GRADUATES: Minister of Education and Higher Education Tuesday evening awards the first batch of students to graduate from the Amman College for Applied Engineering. Dr. Al Omari delivered an address at the ceremony, commending the role of the college, which is considered a model for local and regional colleges and enjoys a good reputation in Jordan and abroad, he added. The college was established in 1975 as a community college and in 1989 became a university college. Awards were distributed to the 104 students specialising in computers, digital systems, electric energy, electromechanical systems, chemical industries, thermal and hydraulic equipment and other engineering branches.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.
- LECTURE**
 - ★ Lecture entitled "Views of the Neanderthals — Their Relationship to Us" by Dr. Geoffrey Clark of Arizona State University at 7 p.m. at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR).
 - EXHIBITIONS**
 - ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakhr Farzat at the Balika Art Gallery, Fuhes City.
 - ★ Art exhibition by Jamal Khmeish and Jihad Abu Suleiman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
 - ★ Art exhibition by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al Mi'mar, Hazem Al Zu'bi, Abdul Raouf Shamoun and Jalal Urrigat at Eshebeia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
 - JERASH FESTIVAL**
 - ★ Concert by Bashar and Ayman Zarqan on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.
 - ★ Piano recital by Waleed Agel on Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.
 - ★ Arabic play entitled "Ahlam Arab Summit" on Thursday and Friday at 8:30 p.m. at the Southern Theatre of Jerash (Starring top Jordanian comedians Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis).
 - ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Samira and the Princess" on Thursday and Friday at 5 p.m. at the Palace of Culture.

Specialists to focus on Western Asia unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The unemployment situation in the countries of Western Asia will be the focus of a meeting in Amman on July 26 by the Ministry of Planning and the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Ten working papers, by experts from countries in the western Asia region, will treat policies on unemployment, organisational reform, returning workers from the Gulf crisis and case studies in Lebanon, Palestine and Saudi Arabia, according to an ESCWA statement Wednesday.

The statement said experts taking part in the four-day meeting are specialised in socio-economic issues or represent major organisations in the Arab World.

It said unemployment was strongly linked to poverty in the countries of the region; two issues which are of concern to ESCWA since it has prepared related programmes and activities to deal with them in the next two years.

The statement said Amman meeting will be considered as part of the Arab World's preparations for the 1995 international conference to be held in Denmark that will address employment as a means of reducing the effects of poverty and improving the status of society worldwide.

Engineers to discuss forming central panel

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Assembly of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) is meeting at the Professional Association Complex Friday to discuss and approve the idea of electing "a central committee" grouping representatives of the general assembly and the JEA Council to better handle the association's affairs and implement its projects.

Interviewed by the Jordan Times, at least 15 JEA members expressed support for the idea which, they said, would involve the general assembly in decision-making matters rather than merely meeting once every two years to elect the 10 council members.

At present, they said matters of concern to the 28,805 JEA members are decided on by the council alone, but a central council would involve both the council members and the general assembly in the process of deciding on matters of interest to the JEA, said the engineers.

Proponents of the idea of the central council are divided into two groups, the first supports the notion of transferring all authority of the projected council except the election of the council members which they believe should be left to the general assembly.

The second supports the idea of retaining the general authority in the council while the central council would be entrusted with following up the implementation of decisions and holding the council accountable for any shortcomings.

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The best for the cause

JORDANIAN WOMEN activists appear to be at a loss on how to implement the strategy they adopted two weeks ago. An issue of priority is getting more and more women to vote in the upcoming elections in order to boost the chances of women candidates. One of the ideas the leaders of the movement are toying with is the launching of a media campaign that would reach as many women as possible. Whether this will work or not depends on answers to several questions. One is whether the movement's strategy is too ambitious, too broad and long-term in nature. Another one is whether the media, being totally under men's control, have given the movement too little attention in the past and are not expected to change soon.

What women need to do is concentrate all their efforts at this stage on one matter: getting their representatives to Parliament. At this juncture, this target requires campaigns in specific constituencies where women-candidates will run. One more effective way this could be achieved through is the recruitment of women volunteers. What the leaders of the movement need to focus on is the recruitment of young women, graduates of universities and community colleges. These young people could go into a crash course that would familiarise them with the issues and methods for a house-to-house campaign in the constituencies that women candidates would run. The volunteers' task should include the collection of women family cards and the registration at voter registration centres. Volunteers could also collect from women contributions that are needed to buy places in the press and air time on radio and TV.

At this moment in their struggle, women must not let it escape their minds that their priority is to ensure that one of them reaches the dome. What they must aim at is ensure that whoever gets elected, woman or man alike, is the best speaker for their cause. Only when they do that will their cause be heard and debated.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday described the current developments in Egypt as representing the result of a foreign conspiracy hatched against the Arab and Muslim people. The foreign powers realise that in Egypt lies the strength or the weakness of the Arab Nation and therefore, they have been intent on weakening the Egyptians through creating internal disturbance and fomenting acts of terrorism, said the paper. It added that the events in Egypt now are appalling and fearful, happening as a result of the foreign powers' conspiracy against Islam and the Arab Nation at large. Those behind the conspiracy in Egypt harbour deep hatred towards the Arabs and the Muslims and hope that acts of terrorism would further weaken the Egyptian nation and drive despair into the hearts of the Arab and Muslim people everywhere, charged the daily. What is happening in Egypt, added the paper, is part of a conspiracy being carried out under the umbrella of the new world imperialism, which is intent on dividing and ruling the world in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet empire. The paper said that the same perpetrators of the conspiracy are directing their venom towards Baghdad, Cairo and all the Arab and Islamic capitals. It said that the Arabs and the Muslims have reason to fear the unknown as they watch Egypt being subjected to economic military and political pressure and its people facing a conspiracy designed to shake its very foundation.

IT IS useless to talk about prospects for improving U.S.-Jordanian relations as long as the American navy continues to impose a blockade on Aqaba, said Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. The siege on Aqaba-bound shipping is illegal and can only be interpreted as an act of war on Jordan, he charged. Indeed, the blockade has diminished the number of monthly ships docking at Aqaba Harbour to nine, down from 20, one and a half years ago and 30 before the Gulf crisis, said the writer. He said the American act of war on Aqaba is costing the Kingdom some \$500 million in lost business, something which accounts for 10 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product. While the U.S.-imposed siege on Aqaba continues, no measures are being imposed to restrict land or maritime transport from and to Iran, Turkey, Syria and Saudi Arabia, the writer pointed out. He said that the siege on Aqaba continues at a time when the Jordanian government reiterates to the whole world that it is strictly abiding by the rules of the U.N. By continuing the blockade, the Americans are telling the world that they do not trust the Jordanian government, and by imposing the siege on Jordan alone, the Americans are clearly trying to reward the other countries which were aligned with the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq and punishing the Jordanian people for opting for democracy and freedom of expression, criticising all forms of terrorism practised against the Arab Nation.

The U.S. Jewish lobby falls from grace

By Patrick Cockburn

WASHINGTON — According to a Washington political joke there are three branches of the American government: the National Rifle Association, the Tobacco Institute and AIPAC — the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee. During the 1980s AIPAC was the most powerful lobby in the capital, capable of killing an appointment or a programme with a nod.

AIPAC had money and political clout and was quick to use both to reward and punish its friends and enemies. From 1980, when President Ronald Reagan was elected, it also became a critical link between the Republicans and the right-wing Likud government in Israel.

Its power was bound to wane with the victory of the Democrats in the U.S. and Labour in Israel, but nobody expected AIPAC's most prominent leaders to destroy themselves by a series of misstatements and lost political battles. "Everybody shoots themselves in the foot once in a while but no need to use a machine-gun," said one Washington observer.

The most dramatic departure from AIPAC is that of Tom Dine, its executive director for 13 years, who resigned under pressure after publication of an interview in which he insulted Orthodox Jews. His remarks were made four years ago to David

Landau whose book, *Pietty and Power — The World of Jewish Fundamentalism*, has just appeared.

Mr. Dine said: "I don't think mainstream Jews feel very comfortable with the ultra-Orthodox. It's a class thing. That's what I'd say now that you've got me thinking about it. Hasids and New York diamond dealers." He also said leaders of the United Jewish Appeal, the largest Jewish philanthropic body, told him they did not like to fly El Al, Israel's national airline, because "those people" were on board.

"AIPAC had money and political clout and was quick to use both to reward and punish its friends and enemies. From 1980, when President Ronald Reagan was elected, it also became a critical link between the Republicans and the right-wing Likud government in Israel."

"Actually, I prefer Swissair or Lufthansa myself," Mr. Dine continued. "But I fly El Al to Israel because it's direct. Yes, TWA flies direct too. But it's low-class, like the Orthodox. Yes, that's still the image." Although Mr. Dine said he had not meant to demean Orthodox Jews he provoked an outraged reaction, Rabbi Moshe Sheret,

the leader of a number of ultra-Orthodox groups, wrote: "Surely you recognise that if you were to make similar remarks about African Americans, for example, or about Reform Jews, you would be compelled to resign your position."

Even so, as the man who had created AIPAC as a political power, Mr. Dine might have survived the furore. But his remarks about the Orthodox came after a series of setbacks. AIPAC was at the height of its power when the Republican right ran the White House. President Bush and James Baker, his secretary of

president, who became involved in a dispute with Israel's deputy foreign minister, Yossi Beilin. He said that Mr. Beilin had told him that Israel was prepared to return to its 1967 borders in return for peace. Mr. Beilin says this was a "gross misquote".

Mr. Friedman's response to the denial was forthright. He said: "This little slime ball can say he didn't say it but three congressmen will affirm that's just what he said." The clash also epitomised the differences between AIPAC and the Labour government whose leader, Yitzhak Rabin, last year criticised the organisation for unnecessarily damaging the relationship between Israel and the U.S. He demanded that the lobby limit its contacts with the administration and stick to trying to influence Congress.

American Jews have always voted overwhelmingly for the Democrats. The defeat of the Republicans and Likud was bound to weaken AIPAC, but it is still a powerful lobby. After President Bill Clinton was elected last year David Steiner, then the president of AIPAC, boasted to a contributor, who recorded his remarks, that his organisation had significant influence over Mr. Clinton's cabinet appointees. The claim was probably true, but when his conversation was published, he too had to resign — *The Independent*.

Israeli calls for withdrawal from South Lebanon

By David J. Forman

The writer is spokesperson of Rabbis for Human Rights. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

AS THE number of casualties mount in South Lebanon, one bears cries for new initiatives in combating the terrorist assaults on our forces. Suggestions range from counter-guerrilla-like attacks to saturation bombings. But there have been no calls for the evacuation of the Israeli army from Lebanon.

We are in South Lebanon ostensibly to protect the northern region of Israel. To fulfill this defence need, Israeli soldiers must risk their lives. We must continually ask ourselves: Are these young men serving the security needs of the country, or are they bearing the burden for a botched political/military policy that has evolved since the invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982?

In light of the divisions in public opinion that the Lebanon war wrought, we must weigh carefully the reasons for pouring more troops into South Lebanon.

The declaratory purpose of the war was to push Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) terrorists 40 kilometres into Lebanese territory, in order to place their Katyushas out of the range of Israel's northern settlements. Ten years later, rockets are still landing in Kiryat Shmona and its environs.

The Labour Party would do well to remember its initial hesitation in supporting the Lebanese adventure. It suspected that Defence Minister Ariel Sharon's real desire was to reorder the political map of the Middle East, in the errant hope that the PLO would be sufficiently humiliated to accept any Israeli policy in the territories. The intifada continues to explode that ill-conceived notion.

Before the outbreak of the war, Israel and the PLO entered through an agreement brokered by the U.S. — maintained a tense silence along the northern border. For a year, all was quiet on the northern front, until the shooting of Israel's ambassador to London. It was that act which allegedly prompted Israel's invasion and the rocket attacks into Israeli territory.

If Labour wishes to stay true to its original intuitive reaction to the Lebanon war, it must maintain that the goal of its government is the same as the one the Likud government claimed in 1982: to stop the inhabitants of Israel's northern border towns needing to live in shelters.

The best way to do that is to bring our boys home now. Let's admit our errors and get out of Lebanon. That is what the Lebanese want, and our departure just might end the attacks on our soldiers and civilians. If we do not leave, we will find ourselves stumbling into a Vietnam-like quagmire.

Our country will be divided again; and with the bitterness characterised the divisions in America because of the Vietnam war. Soldiers' refusal to serve in Lebanon will increase. Casualties will mount, with parents asking: What are we sacrificing our sons for? For the continuation of a misguided policy that proved a failure weeks after the war began?

Our political leaders are falling into the Vietnam trap, blaming the Syrians, Iranians, Hizbullah and whomever for what is happening. America held Cambodia and Laos responsible for the Vietcong's actions. (Hopefully, unlike the Americans in Cambodia, we won't invade Syria.)

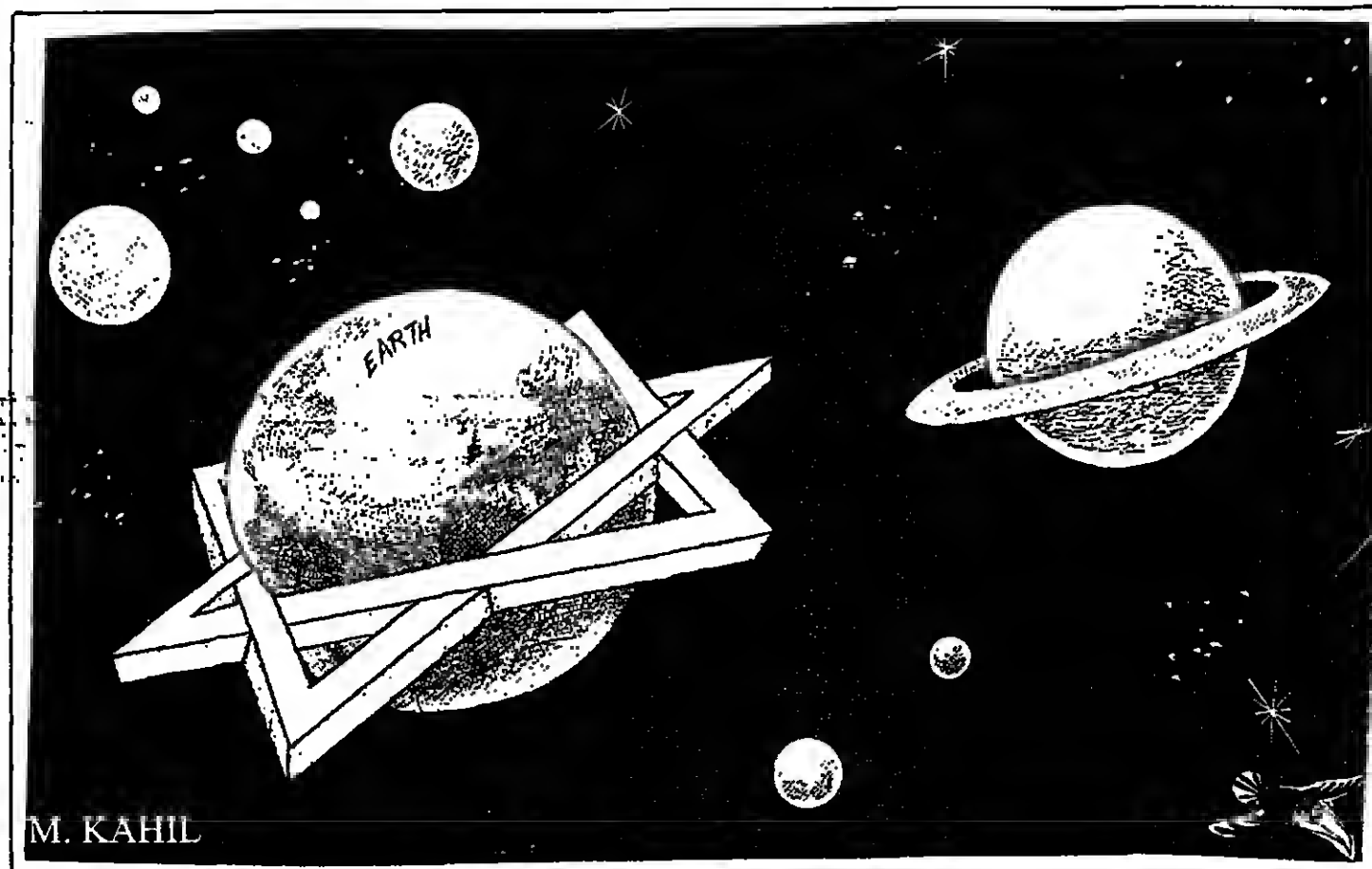
No one state or militia has control over the various terrorist groups operating throughout Lebanon. Two of those most powerful sects are the Druze and the Shaites. Before the war, they were not our enemies. But our continued presence in Lebanon has brought all the different factions together. They are unified in their desire to rid their soil of Israelis.

Like the U.S., we believe that we can train another army to do our bidding. The Americans failed in their attempts to turn the South Vietnamese army into a serious fighting force. The end result was that Americans got killed in place of South Vietnamese. So it is in Lebanon. Israel cannot — should not — put its trust in the South Lebanese Army.

The Lebanese want us out of their country. If we leave, do we have a guarantee that Israeli soldiers and civilians will no longer be killed? No. Yet we do know for certain that our continued presence in Lebanon brings daily announcements of another soldier's death or injury.

Before we allow this to happen, we must be certain that these deaths serve our country's real defence needs, and that we have explored all the possibilities for bringing the killings to an end.

Our government has done neither. And until it ascertains exactly what is best, we should demand that our boys come home now.



No clear way forward for Japan's hung parliament

By Eugene Moosa
Renter

TOKYO — It will take days, even weeks, of haggling and horse-trading before a clear picture emerges from the confusion in Japan's new hung parliament, where the swing votes are held by a new party with little experience.

"No serious political commentator can accurately predict who will head the new government," said Tadashi Iyasa, politics professor at Ryukoku University.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said on Monday the 223 seats the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) won out of 511 contested in Sunday's general election showed Japan was still looking to the LDP for leadership. He said the LDP would definitely seek to form a minority or coalition government.

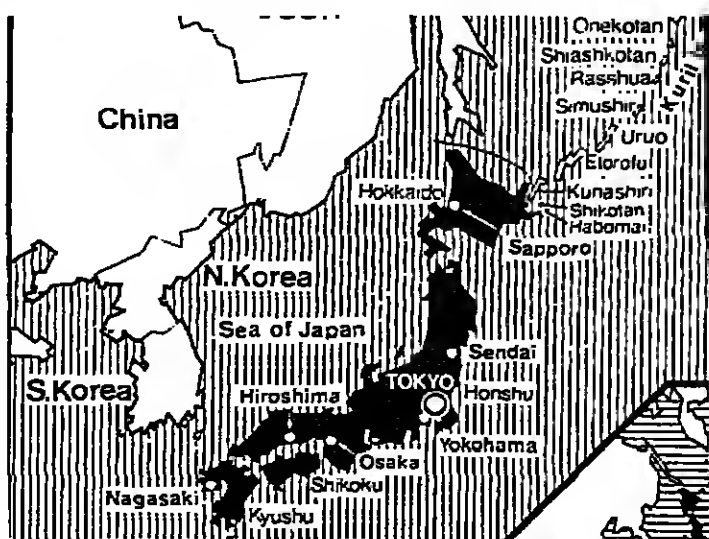
LDP officials said they would call a special session of parliament on Aug. 2, aiming to vote for the next prime minister on Aug. 12.

In the days ahead, the LDP is expected to list affiliated independents on its parliamentary roster, taking its strength in the powerful lower house to about 232. That is still short of the 256 it needs to form a majority government.

In the other camp, a five-party alliance which pledged before the election to form a coalition to end 38 years of LDP rule repeated the promise on Monday.

Together the five — the Socialists, the Japan Renewal Party formed by LDP defectors, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, the centrist Democratic Socialists and the tiny Socialist Democratic Federation — would hold about 210 seats, including sympathisers among the independents.

The balance is held by the Japan New Party (JNP) and the Harbinger New Party, a neutral bloc which announced on Mon-



day it would form a 48-strong parliamentary group. JNP leader Morihiro Hosokawa still refuses publicly to back either camp. "I guess he can't do anything drastic too early, because he has no experience in matters of this gravity," Mr. Iyasa said. "He must also consult the newly elected JNP lawmakers, most of whom have no parliamentary experience."

The Communists, with 15 seats, will not figure in any coalition.

Mr. Iyasa, an expert in LDP affairs, said both camps would degenerate into squabbling factions if pushed into opposition. This increased their determination to win the tug of war over the JNP-Harbinger alliance.

A decisive element in coalition or alliance talks will be the choice of candidate to head such a fragile government and neither camp holds an ace on that score, Mr. Iyasa said.

In the LDP, Mr. Miyazawa himself cannot be considered since no party would opt to support a prime minister who has lost a no-confidence vote.

Other senior party figures are weak or smudged by scandal. In the five-party alliance, Socialist Chairman Sadao Yamahana has been ruled out by his party's poor performance in the election and distrust of its hard-left policies.

The five parties have discussed putting up Tadamoto Hata, the renewal chief who led the revolt against the LDP, as their joint candidate for premier.

But Mr. Hata's past links to two paramount scandal figures, the LDP's Noboru Takeshita and "kingmaker" Shin Kanemaru, could scare away the JNP neutral bloc.

Opinion remains split. NHK public television said the LDP was most likely to form a minority government, relying on possible deals with some centrist parties to push through key measures.

Mr. Iyasa disagreed. "My bet is the JNP group will join the five-party alliance because they must keep up the political momentum that they have created, that is, the move away from one-party rule and stagnant politics."

Crisis in Congo — another experiment backfires

By Armand Bernard Massamba
The Associated Press

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo — Daily shootouts, random looting, mobs that choose sides on ethnic lines. An elected legislature paralysed by its own diversity. A former ruler who won't let go.

"It's a familiar pattern in developing countries that have experimented with democracy since the cold war ended, particularly in Africa."

Each textbook transition toward democracy seems to collapse into civil unrest and political impasse, usually driven by tribal rivalries long suppressed by colonialism and authoritarian governments.

Congo, a southwest African nation famous for rich oil fields, dense rain forests and a great river, once seemed on the path to doing it right.

No longer. Weeks ago, Congo was two years into a successful timetable for democracy. But now, a power struggle has forced people to choose sides by tribe.

While nations like Nigeria, Zaire, Central African Republic and Guinea have yet to get rid of their military dictators, the problem in Congo is an ousted general determined to regain power.

Gen. Denis Sassou-Nguesso leads an opposition that claims the June legislative elections it lost were rigged. The dispute has degenerated into tribal battles that have forced up to 40,000 people to flee their homes in Brazzaville, the capital.

Soldiers guard the downtown area but stay clear of the southern Baongo neighbourhood, an opposition stronghold where more than half the city's 600,000 residents lived before the trouble started this month.

Baongo has been taken over by gangs of armed men called "ninjas" who wear knitted masks. Diplomats say many appear to be army soldiers out of uniform.

A similar struggle in Nigeria, where the military ruler won't relinquish power to a rival who apparently won the presidential election last month, has overshadowed the Congo crisis and other African political dramas.

All have common elements: an army afraid of losing dominance, a dictator reluctant to leave and a society unable to separate party politics from ethnic affiliation.

In Niger, which used to have a military government, soldiers rebelled last week against Mahamane Ousmane, the first democratically elected president. He declared: "The army must obey the political establishment."

Serious efforts to throw out Africa's authoritarian rulers were born when the cold-war died and the dictators could no longer play the superpowers off against each other.

One of the first democracy movements, a distant echo of the collapsing Berlin wall, began in late 1989 in Benin with people stoning a statue of Lenin and demanding the ouster of their communist military ruler.

Weeks later, Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor began fighting another military ruler, Samuel Doe, starting a tribal war that has killed 150,000 people.

The U.N. Children's Fund says 500 children may be dying every day there of hunger and disease. That war spilled into neighbouring Sierra Leone, leading to the overthrow of one military

regime by younger soldiers who now are trying to put down a new rebellion.

Authoritarian governments in Zaire, Nigeria and the Central African Republic are accused of fanning ethnic rivalries to create chaos that allows them to remain in power.

Zaire, Congo's giant neighbour across the Congo River, has two prime ministers, one recognised abroad and the other by dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

In Togo, Gen. Gnassingbe Eyadema's bid to continue as president led to bombings and street violence that have caused 230,000 people to flee Lome, the capital of the tiny West African nation.

In Congo, gunshots and the occasional rocket kept Brazzaville residents awake and frightened of the night-stalking "ninjas."

Hundreds of people have fled Brazzaville neighbourhoods, telling of campaigns against people who support Pascal Lissouba, the democratically elected president installed last year.

Militants have begun taking hostages. Mr. Lissouba's chief aide, Albert Onsiayi, was freed last week in exchange for popular musician Jacques Koyo, who supports Mr. Sassou-Nguesso.

Mr. Lissouba and Mr. Sassou-Nguesso belong to rival Bantu tribes, whose rifts are growing steadily wider.

Congo renounced Marxism in 1991 and held its first free elections in 1992. It had become a haven for people fleeing the social and economic collapse of Zaire, but now Brazzaville and Kinshasa are sister cities in chaos.

Author Slavenka Drakulic: 'We are the war'

By Justin Keay

LONDON — Two years after it started, the crisis in former Yugoslavia shows no sign of being resolved. Indeed, it has induced "compassion fatigue" among Westerners who have grown tired of the endless accusations and counter-accusations and the relentlessly tedious (and largely useless) peace negotiations. Slavenka Drakulic is the perfect antidote. Lively, outspoken and with an excellent command of the English language, she is determined not to allow the horror of what is still taking place to be clouded by political or diplomatic obfuscation.

Born 44 years ago in Rijeka, an industrial port in Croatia, she read comparative sociology and literature at Zagreb University before making her name in journalism.

A few years ago, she published *How We Survived Communism And Even Laughed*, a collection of essays which somehow managed to cast new light on how it was to live in a Communist society. Eschewing a political or even sociological approach, Drakulic wrote frankly about day to day problems and triumphs. She does much the same in *Balkan Express: Fragments From The Other Side Of War* to be published in the U.S. next month. Her novel *Marble Skin*, which deals with mother daughter relationships, is also scheduled to be published later in the year.

Critics have never been able to categorise Drakulic: She is widely described as feminist, in the sense that she writes from a woman's point of view, but the label somehow seems inadequate.

Balkan Express is described as "literary non-fiction": A label broadly endorsed by Drakulic.

"I don't know what the war is... but I can see that it is everywhere. It is in a street flooded with blood after 20 people have died in a bread queue in Sarajevo. But it is also in your not understanding it, in my unconscious cruelty towards you... in the way that it is growing within us and changing our emotions, our relations, our values. We are the war... we make it possible, we allow it to happen" (from *Balkan Express*).

In Drakulic's book, history is as real and significant as something that happened yesterday, often distorted and exaggerated and sometimes imagined, but always continuing to hold people in its grip.

Balkan Express is about an atomised society where people have become preoccupied with keeping themselves and their families alive. Clearly, to Drakulic, something inside has died: The war has damaged people's sense of themselves in the world, it has damaged their humanity.

Drakulic maintains that her book "picks up where the news stops, it fits somewhere in between hard facts and analysis and personal stories, because the war is happening not only at the front, but everywhere and to us all."

She sees the war as somehow real and surreal at the same time: Even to people who are caught up in it, there is a sense of otherness, that really it is all happening to somebody else, somewhere else. Not in Europe, surely? Can such medieval horror, based on such primitive prejudice, really happen where children wear Bart Simpson T-shirts and where Madonna sings her latest hit on MTV? One is left with a sense of something that has spiralled out of control, but is yet so horrific that it is hard to give it credence.

During a visit to London she agreed to an exclusive interview.

Question: You write in *Balkan Express* that the achievements of the new Croatia will have to be "considerable indeed, because the independence stinks of death." Elsewhere in the book you refer to the strange, quasifascist atmosphere currently prevailing in the country. How are things there? Do you see any signs of the wounds of war healing?



In the *Balkan Express* author Slavenka Drakulic portrays the psychological wounds inflicted by war

Answer: "No, I don't see any signs of healing. I think Croatia is in a strange, in-between stage: There is neither peace nor war. This makes people nervous: You can deal with certainty, but it is hard to cope with this not knowing. The frontline is still only 30 miles from Zagreb — and this induces a certain schizophrenia. I must say that there is also a certain bitterness among people on the Dalmatian coast that they bore the brunt of the war against the Serbs. People in places like Dubrovnik and Zadar still live in daily fear of being shelled. They are a long way from getting their lives back together."

"I feel that this war has changed everybody. In Europe as well as former Yugoslavia. Europe just didn't know how to respond to the problem of refugees, to countries set on changing their borders. They used euphemisms, not wanting to accept the reality. If Europe doesn't know how to deal with minority issues here, what will happen in the future with the former Soviet Union? And many of the republics involved there have nuclear weapons. Rules must be set, rather than the present policy of endless negotiations, of the U.N. going into war areas without a mandate to fight back."

Q: How do you feel things got to this stage in former Yugoslavia? How could a society, where people had lived alongside each other apparently without incident for the past two generations, just fall apart?

A: "This war was manufactured from the very top, and pushed down through the media. War memories were

revived by the Serbs, and distorted: Croats responded in kind. Once the first house was blown up, it was the start of a bloody chain. Volunteers came over to Croatia — and then to Bosnia — from Serbia and started threatening local Serbs if they didn't agree to fight."

"In the earlier 1980s, you couldn't really feel tension, except in Kosovo. There were many mixed marriages: For many people, for my generation and younger, nationality had ceased to mean anything. (Serbian President Slobodan) Milosevic shifted the focus of debate from social and economic issues to nationalism. Tensions started building up: You see this but you can't imagine that it could lead to war. Maybe in Croatia, the Serb minority was not handled well, but it seems it was too late: Arms had already been smuggled in."

Q: You are often described as a feminist writer. Do you agree with this description?

A: "Certainly. I am a feminist — but I'm not ideological about it. I write from a woman's point of view. In *Balkan Express* and *How We Survived Communism* the view is from below, from the kitchen window, if you like."

Everybody who is experiencing this war is doing so in their own way: I am trying to show how people are being changed by it. People have had enough military and political analysis: They need to see what lies behind it."

Q: I have read *Marble Skin*: The descriptions of the daughter-mother-lover relationship in particular are quite remarkable. What was the genesis of this story? What were you trying to get across?

A: "For a very long time, I had wanted to write about the 'sexual mother'. I feel it is the last taboo. Nobody wants to discuss it: Children — daughters in particular — find the notion hard to accept, and the mother's silence on the matter is hypocritical. The people in the book are very ordinary: They don't even have a discernable nationality. The book is fundamentally about emotions, about people and their feelings. It goes very deep."

Q: How has the book been received?

A: "Very well in Croatia: It's also doing well in Holland and Belgium. I look forward to seeing how it does in the U.K. and the U.S.: The British — in particular — are very closed to matters sexual and they might feel the book is too open."

"Funnily enough, some of the best reactions to the book have come from men: Many have told me that reading it helped them understand women. Certainly, I think that women who had problems relating to their own mothers might feel uncomfortable with it."

Q: What are your future plans?

A: "I'm working on a book about the 1945-55 generation in former Yugoslavia: My generation. We endured the end of the war, Stalinism, the reform era, and now, war again. To be honest, we never thought we'd see the collapse of communism: It deprived us of the ability to see into the future, so we came to feel that there was no future beyond it. All these changes are hard for us. It is very difficult to transform your entire outlook and life at 45. I think we really need to understand what it is that has happened. We need to get a proper perspective."

"As regards the future generally, I am very pessimistic. Europe was so naive to think that the collapse of communism could be bloodless: Democracy must be built. At the moment, though, we are facing a new world disorder. The rules have not been set, and this makes me very fearful" — World News Link.

BOOK REVIEWS

Throwing light into dark places

Sleeping On A Wire: Conversations With Palestinians In Israel
By David Grossman
Jonathan Cape, London 1993, £17.99

David Grossman's first book, *The Yellow Wind*, explored the attitudes of Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and of the Israeli settlers who had made their homes among them. The book made its young author's reputation, one which he has since enhanced by writing two successful novels. Reading his new book is to realise, with an infinite sense of pathos and nostalgia, that things might have been different in Palestine, that the conflict between Jews and Arabs could long since have been resolved, had a different attitude of mind prevailed among Israel's founding fathers and their successors down the years.

Instead, as David Grossman makes clear with a wealth of detailed illustration, Israel's leaders have made use of a combination of legislative manipulation and simple coercion to ensure that the Palestinian minority — one fifth of the population of Israel — should not enjoy a proportionate share of the benefits of life there. And the Palestinians, out of a mixture of fear and mistrust, have remained passive, have tried to be inconspicuous as possible — or, in Grossman's vivid image, have behaved like tightrope walkers who sense danger and have stopped in mid-air. Unwilling to go forward and unable to go back, they remain in uneasy suspension, "sleeping on the wire".

The author must know that what he writes here will make him deeply unpopular with the majority of his countrymen. His critics do not mean it as a compliment when they call him "the conscience of Israel", in the tone of voice that Menachem Begin used to adopt when he dismissed as "bleeding hearts" those Israelis who protested about human rights violations in the occupied territories. But Grossman is clear in his own mind about what he is doing. Shocked, as he explains in the last chapter, to discover that many Palestinians expect one day to be deported from Israel, he addresses himself in these terms to an imaginary Palestinian: "In the book I am now writing,

there is the desire, which I do not always know how to realise (but which now, at least, I am confident of), to make room for you here." In other words, his aim is to show how finally, after 45 years, the Palestinians in Israel could and should be integrated into Israeli life.

To this objective Grossman brings, apart from honesty and a willingness to look at uncomfortable facts in the face, a modesty which disarms criticism and lends an almost childlike sincerity to his far-reaching judgments. For instance, when he recounts the terrible story of the village of Irit and Biram, occupied by the Israeli army which defied a Supreme Court order to allow the return of their inhabitants and blew up the villages before their eyes, he is the first to ask why he knew so little of excesses and inequalities which made the Palestinians into strangers in their own land.

It is a question that ought to be put, not just to every Israeli, but to anyone who accepts without question Israel's two-tier system of citizenship. Of the many moving and revealing conversations recorded here, perhaps the most striking is one in which a Jewish woman married to a Palestinian describes the complex pattern of discrimination to which she is subjected on account of her husband, an Israeli citizen like herself. She has had to develop what Grossman has consciously acquired and what he calls "a Jewish-Arab double focus". It helps him a lot, he says; helps him to notice things that his Jewish fellow-citizens ignore; the road signs in Hebrew only, although Arabic is an official language in Israel; the Hebrew warning signs on poisonous fluids and dangerous drugs and high-tension cables. But then, as that Jewish wife of a Palestinian observes: "When an Arab child is hurt, no one knows who he is, what his name is, who his parents are. He doesn't exist. He's inconsequential. But when a Jewish child is hurt, they make a whole spectacle of it: They show him on television, give his biography, who his grandfather and grandmother are."

That vision lends distinction to David Grossman's work, as well as the strength of an imagination that enables him to stand in another man's shoes and to feel what that man feels, despite the superficial difference between them. It is a pity that *Sleeping On A Wire* was not written years ago. Throwing light into dark places, it exposes prejudice and fear as the enemies that have to be overcome if there is ever to be peace — not just a settlement — in Palestine — Middle East International.

Michael Adams

Avoiding offence

The Decline And Fall Of The Ottoman Empire
By Alan Palmer
John Murray, London 1992, £25

The story of the rise and decline of the Ottoman empire has a grandeur and sweep to it that the best of the earlier historians — Edward Creasy, William Miller — vividly captured. In our own time the Works by M.S. Anderson and Bernard Lewis substituted rigour for glamour, while Lord Kinross and Peter Mansfield reinstated the colourful vision. These authors set high standards for English-language writers on Ottoman history. The books by William Langer are also helpful, if one takes note of the fact that he was working for the CIA.

Unfortunately Alan Palmer is not in that league. His new book is unexciting, and the author seems over-keen not to give offence to the ruling nationality. The complex web of European diplomatic involvements in the empire is never brought into clear focus. Although the Ottoman empire was a political structure with subject peoples, like its British and Chinese counterparts, Ottoman subject nations such as the Arabs (who outnumbered the Turks) receive only cursory attention. Palmer's emphasis is duly statist, focussing on the centre of power and its capacity (some would say incapacity) to keep the show on the road. He has little to say on the issue of Islamic statecraft, while developing ideas and notions within the empire, such as religious scepticism and the rise of secular nationalism, and the immensely important ideology of pan-Turkism, current at the time of World War I, pass with hardly a mention.

Palmer virtually ignores the impact of Ottoman indebtedness (after 1875) on European attitudes to the empire, which arguably constituted a more important issue than the empire's Islamic structure. His timid reliance on the Turkish version reaches absurd proportions in the account of the Armenian question of 1894-6, which could only have been written by deliberately ignoring large quantities of impartial published British sources — Middle East International.

Christopher J. Walker

Diary

EDITORIAL DOUBLESPEAK: An anonymous reader this week tried to help the Jordan Times do its job. He or she sent copies of two articles, one in Arabic and the other in English, both written by responsible editor of Ad-Dustour daily, Dr. Mousa Keilani. In the first, which was published in Ad-Dustour on July 7, Dr. Keilani wrote under the title "One Person, One Vote" the following: "The intelligent move to air His Majesty King Hussein's meeting (with the senators) was a precedent on which our brothers in television should be congratulated. It had a positive impact on (our) citizens who were able to listen to the dialogue... away from hypocrisy... Our brothers did well to repeat the transmission of the meeting..." In the English column; which the Jordan Times published for him the following day, Dr. Keilani wrote about the same topic, only that he seems to have changed his mind just a little bit about the T.V. coverage. He wrote: "I believe it was counterproductive to air the discussions between the King and the Senate last month. It prejudiced the one-person-one-vote formula." Is this a case of double speak on Dr. Keilani's part, the anonymous reader meant to ask, or is it political schizophrenia in as far as the election law is concerned. At the time of writing yesterday, the Diary tried to find the right answer from the man himself. But he was nowhere to be found.

AUTOCRATS VS. DEMOCRATS: Speaking of information and doublespeak it appears as though this new era of democracy we are passing through has not really impressed all members of the Majali government. A new television programme, which was created to present differing points of view in the political spectrum, is facing its own problems with schizophrenic attitudes. The presenter of the said programme figured that it would be off to a good start if she could cover all shades of political opinion in the official media. Armed by the pleasant memory of a conversation she had had with the information minister, Maan Abu Nowar, just before he took his Cabinet post, about the need to involve television in covering the activities of political parties, the presenter set off to do her job with no worries about possible censorship. Alas, word had somehow reached a different level of decision-making in the Cabinet before the programme went on the air. One cabinet member even wanted to spike the programme altogether. The case went to the top echelons of government where a decision had to be made on whether the rejectionist minister or the Information Ministry would be the final arbiter on the matter. The rejectionist naturally won, but not exactly. Intensive lobbying by political parties who were informed of what was taking place, made it possible to reverse the earlier decision and the programme finally made it to the airwaves. Happy ending to what might have been a typical fight between democracy and autocracy. But there is more in store, for old autocrats never give up.

TRIBALISM FOR ALL SEASONS: A journalist working for a political party newspaper tells a story that can only add to the "say-something-do-something-else" mood in the country. He recently wrote an article analysing the election situation in the southern part of the Kingdom, only to find himself criticising some of the prominent tribal personalities there. A few days later someone shot one single bullet through the window of his bedroom. Upon investigation, it was found that he had been receiving verbal threats at the newspaper, but that his editors thought they were not serious enough to warrant informing the police about them. The investigation further showed that his case was considered politically motivated and was transferred to the department in charge of such cases. Instead of helping the journalist, however, officers in charge of that department started criticising him for being a member of a political party which does not respect the "sheikhs" of the country and does not recognise its limits in dealing with them. The journalist found it necessary to remind his accusers that the Kingdom has pledged itself to multi-party democracy and that their behaviour directly contradicted this pledge, but to no avail. He was apparently treated to a change of status from that of claimant to that of being accused and was placed under custody for half an hour. He was later released, but his case has gone to all corners of authority in the country. It is now with someone who understands democracy better, we hope.

Nermeen Murad

Polio is declining worldwide — U.S. agency

ATLANTA (R) — Polio is declining worldwide but cases continue to be reported in India, China, Vietnam and parts of the former Soviet Union, a U.S. government health agency said.

In a report on the global effort to wipe out polio, the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that 84 per cent of the world population had been vaccinated, up from 67 per cent in 1988.

The Atlanta-based CDC said in its report that the last known case of polio in the Western hemisphere occurred in September 1991 in Peru.

The agency noted that strains of polio virus had been found in April infecting people in a religious community in Canada whose members refuse to be vaccinated against the disease, but none of those infected had any symptoms of polio.

During 1991, the last year for which complete statistics were available, there were 14,176 cases of polio reported worldwide. Some 46 per cent

of the world total of polio cases came from South East Asia and 91 per cent of those were reported in India.

Polio also appeared to be increasing in parts of the Western Pacific, where China accounted for 98 per cent of the region's total of 2,615 cases in 1991.

Although the total numbers were much lower, the number of reported cases also rose in Europe, to 313 in 1991 from 206 in 1988. Republics of the former Soviet Union accounted for 68 per cent of the European total, CDC said.

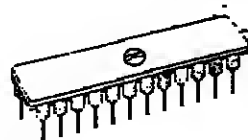
CDC said other troubling statistics came from the eastern Mediterranean, where polio continues to exist despite relatively high coverage with vaccine. The agency noted that during an outbreak in Oman which affected 118 persons, 51 per cent of those who became ill had received the recommended oral polio vaccine.

Similarly, 17 of the 32 people who contracted the disease in Jordan had been vaccinated.

Beauty and the beast

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



All the manufactured products that we use are usually designed to serve a certain purpose. A knife, for instance, is made to cut. But all knives are not created equal, this we know. Depending on what the knife is supposed to cut, who is going to use it and in which conditions, such utensil can take various shapes, sizes, and be made of many different materials.

Modern manufacturing has also made tools not only efficient but as pleasant as possible to use. A quality pen allows you to write pages and pages without fatigue or stress. If it has the right weight, the correct balance, among other features, writing with it becomes effortless.

The above described characteristics are known as ergonomics, or human engineering. Their purpose is to coordinate the design of devices, systems and physical conditions with the capacities and requirements of the user. Virtually all recently produced equipment, tools, devices, furniture, cars, common or special objects and of course computers, are made according to well defined ergonomic principles.

Beyond human engineering, but complementing it, defying all systematic sciences, aesthetics remain an essential and integral part of any manufactured product or object. Computers, particularly PCs (personal computers), are certainly no exception.

Precisely because it is meant to be 'personal', a PC must look good. However large the screen or fast the processor, a computer with a badly designed contour will not tempt the buyer. Can you imagine staring at your PC for long working hours at night if it has a repelling aspect or unpleasant colours? Even when you are not using it, how does it blend with your carpet, your TV set?

The external beauty of a PC is the element that most manufacturers tend to ignore or omit. Yet, all users agree that it should not be the case. Even those who do not realise the importance of aesthetics suffer from their

absence, one way or another. They are, unconsciously, victims of the "space pollution". Just like a worker in a noisy construction site suffers from noise pollution without taking notice of it, being on the job everyday, taken by the routine.

The Italian industry, well known for its great looking sport cars, fashion clothes and "design" objects, was the first to come up with a PC beautiful to look at: The Olivetti M24, back in 1984. It even went on government stamps and won several awards. Nowadays, with Apple in the lead, most American and European computer manufacturers are keen to design good looking machines. Things are different in the Far East where the PC industry is eager to produce and ship its goods at the lowest price, as fast as possible.

Things will change in the countries where the sun rises, only when PC users will realise the importance of aesthetics and become more demanding with the manufacturers. A quiet and clean environment can improve people's efficiency. Beautiful tools too.

The PC is becoming the 'do-it-all' tool in every office and household. It works as a powerful calculator, a data processing and storage device, a fax machine, a telephone and address directory, a games machine, a typewriter, an encyclopedia, and so on. Shouldn't it be attractive to look at?

The meaning of freedom

By E. Yaghi

Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau
How can you enslave men when their mothers have borne them free?
Omar Ibn Al Khatab

What is meant by the concept of freedom? Is it simply the non-existence of interference of external movement of one object upon another? Can we apply this to all things on earth, whether animate or inanimate? Hence, are rocks and stones free and also air and water if we consider that nothing interferes with their movement? Are also birds and animals free in this same sense? Ideally speaking, freedom is not just non-existence of external interference but it is a quality that is peculiar only to man, for it is man and only man who owns the power of reason and is capable of making rational decisions.

Freedom and humanity go hand in hand, for there can be no freedom without humanity. Further, there cannot be freedom if man does not exist, for freedom is the essence of man, his identity and his inalienable God-given right. Then, what is man? Man is the sum of his actions, conduct and moral principles and his awareness of himself.

It is often taken for granted that ruthless dictators and tyrants are free men and that a political prisoner who languishes in the deepest dungeon lacks freedom because the external conditions deny him the liberty that the majority of his fellow humans possess. This is not necessarily so because that prisoner may be an unwavering resolute champion who staunchly believes in an ideal which is beneficial to all mankind. Thus, the prisoner owns internal freedom that his captor obviously lacks, for dictators and tyrants are slaves of their inhuman ideas and ill-bred passions that are counter-productive to the human race. Such desecrators are degenerated spirits, negation opposed to creation.

It is necessary in any society where human beings live

together to have some sort of authority that guides the behaviour of all members and such a concept of functional interaction can be performed through the act of "social contract." A social contract is an agreement between the citizen and the state whereby some rights will be given up in order to procure others, such as the safeguarding of lives and private property. If there is no such social contract between state and individual, then total chaos will result. Freedom does not mean that each individual does anything he wishes at the expense of his society and others for this is a negative concept.

Freedom is neither complete control nor total lack of it, nor is it total acceptance of one's fate, for then this would be slavery. A free action is only one in which man changes the world and himself. It is a task which benefits all. It does not desecrate nor is it anti-creation.

Modern man has become slave to machines and technology. Without them he cannot live. Imagine life without television! How could we ever survive? And what would we ever do without a car to take us to a destination? Frequently, man is a slave to social norms whether good or bad. Often decisions are taken with the fear of: "What would my friends or relatives say if I do this?" rather than the better question of: "Is this action right or wrong and will it be beneficial to others?"

There can never be a totally free society without free men but there can be a free man in an unfree society. The freer the society in terms of humaneness, the more likely its members are to be people of creative, individual, inquisitive and imaginative minds. The more oppressive the society is, the less chance there is that the majority of its members are ones to better those around them. One priority of freedom is respect for the individual rights of all, as well as the recognition of the dignity of each human being. Absence of freedom then is not only the danger of death for man but man's death. The aim of freedom is a free person in a free society with the goal to improve the conditions of all in order to make the world a better place to live in and where moral justice prevails.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 22

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Sarah finds a job in one of the banks where her friend Jackie works, her boss admires her very much and promises to promote her, but Jackie warns her.

9:10 Quantum Leap

Her Charm

Sam, an FBI agent who is assigned to protect Donna who is the only witness to a crime committed by the big gangster Nick Koshivos who tries to kill her.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — The Lost Capone

Starring: Adrian Pasdeo, Ally Sheedy

Friday, July 23

8:30 Head Of The Class

Mr. Moore directs Hamlet for the theatre in a style that appeals to the modern audience.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

The old judge commits suicide. Tissa keeps investigating the case until she finds out why.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Echoes.

After meeting her brother in Rome Angela returns home to Ireland and keeps her brother's secret.

Saturday, July 24

8:30 Super Bloopers "And New Practical Jokes"

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English



Omar Sharif stars in the new mini-series, **Memories Of Midnight** Wednesday at 10:20

10:20 Feature Film — Exclusive

Starring: Suzanne Somers, Ed Begley Jr and Joe Corbese

A thrilling story about a TV anchorwoman who follows an exclusive story.

Sunday, July 25

8:30 Step By Step

Model Daughter

Carren gets an offer to work as a model in Chicago, her mother objects to the idea and refuses to let her go.

9:10 Documentary — The Trials Of Life

Living Together

The fascinating world of ants and insects. How they co-

exist and how they "eat" each other.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series

Monday, July 26

8:30 Golden Girls

The four ladies play a game in a big hotel. They act as investigators looking for a murderer.

9:10 Thirtysomething

10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

A Bird In The Hand

Columbo solves the three mysterious murders in and around the mansion of a rich

businessman.

Tuesday, July 27

8:30 Detectives

The two naive detectives work as consultants with a director who is shooting a film. Someone kills the director.

9:00 Faces And Places

9:30 A Kind Of Magic

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — A Cry In The Night

Starring: Perry King and Carol Clark

Just when Jenny thinks she has found eternal happiness in her second marriage, she is shocked to find out that she is married to a mentally disturbed man, obsessed with the love of his dead mother.

Wednesday, July 28

8:30 Night Court

The court policeman kidnaps a monkey from a laboratory to protect it from the tests. He keeps the monkey at the court house.

9:10 The Story Of Hollywood

Tom From Today's Headlines

The episode shows the influence of politics in the world which affected Hollywood.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — Memories Of Midnight

Starring: Omar Sharif

Catherine wakes up after losing her memory in one of the monasteries near Athens, Greece. Costa, a friend of hers, sends her to Amsterdam to work in one of his companies.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

★ The longest human beard ever recorded was eleven feet, six inches, grown by Hans N. Lanoseth in 1912.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Benjamin Franklin could play three different instruments: the harp, the guitar and the violin.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The expression "blind as a bat," is unscientific. Bats have eyes and can see fairly well.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ There are more than 3,070 counties in the United States.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The inside of a cucumber is often twenty degrees hotter than the surrounding air.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

— Here is the bag. Al shanta hona.
— Here are the boys. Al awlad hona.
— I like it. Ohibbobo (Masc.); Ohibboba (fem.)
— I don't like it. La ohibbobo (ohibboba).
— I know. Ana arif.
— I don't know. Ana la arif.
— I think so. A'takid zalik: Arouno zalik.
— I'm hungry. Ana jaw'aan.
— I'm thirsty. Ana atshan.
— I'm in a hurry. Ana mustajel.
— I'm ready. Ana musta'id/Ana jahaz.
— Leave me alone. Seebni lewahdi.
— Just a moment. Lahza wahda fakat.
— This way, please. Afwan, min hona.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

The Big Sleep

Sue always insisted that her husband Jack take her to the theatre once a month, but Jack hated the theatre. "See," he explained, "I would rather stay home and watch the big sleep."

So they went to the theatre that night with friends. At the end of Act II a loud snoring sound startled them. Everyone looked and there was Jack fast asleep. Sue turned crimson red with shame.

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

DAGGER: A friend will confer a favour.

CHIMNEY: Good luck, the higher the better.

GATE: An obstacle to success will suddenly disappear.

FALLING: Indicates some misfortunes.

HAMMER: Triumph over difficulties.

JEWELS: To dream of jewellery of any kind is always a bad sign; love troubles or business dangers.

HOSPITAL: Misery, poverty, wounds.

JUG: (Drinking from one) Robust health and wholesome pleasures.

KISS: Beware of treachery and deceit: (Kissing hand of somebody) friendship and good fortune: (Kissing a stranger's hand) a journey.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

"Arrowwords"

EACH arrow points to the beginning of the word according to the appropriately numbered clue. The words extend from arrow to arrow, the final letter of one word becoming the first letter of the next.

Write your solutions clockwise into the "target", and remember, only the twelve letters in the lower diagram are to be used.

➔ Native of the Pampas of Uruguay

➔ Silent flying birds of prey

➔ Smart



A C G H I L N O S T U W

Got a problem? Can't afford a shrink? Try the Advice Ladies

By Larry McShane
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — There's a problem with the world, and every corner in Manhattan, but solutions may be available on just one.

Need some tips on your love life? Our job? Your makeup?

Just about over to the Soho street corner where the Advice Ladies set up shop. The three pals — who spend

the week working in advertising — will listen to your troubles and dole out words of wisdom, all for free.

"The weird thing is not that we exist," said Caroline Johnson, who's spent most Saturdays for the last five years giving curbside advice. "The weird thing is that we have customers."

They began as a lark, but the weekly sessions have become an institution on the corner of Broome and West

Broadway. Regular customers now mix with first-timers. Gawkers gather just to watch the ladies.

"People will be talking about something very intimate, and suddenly the person behind them will say, 'Can you speak up? I can't hear you,'" said Marlowe Minnick.

In sync with the spirit of Soho, the downtown art district, the women wear black lycra and drink white wine while dispensing guidance to

all comers.

They set up shop in a matter of minutes. Folding chairs, a table with a white tablecloth, a blue bag holding a faux flower. A sign, written in black and red magic marker, reads "free advice from a panel of experts."

Specialties include getting rid of your jerk. Love and dating (also marriage). Pet discipline. Hair and makeup. Paris. Baby names. Fire pre-

vention. Finding a new jerk.

On Saturday, the chairs were barely filled when the ladies began their quest for a new hair colour. Total strangers spill their guts. And they follow the women's advice.

"When a stranger talks to you, there's something about that advice that's very objec-

tive," Minnick said.

Their qualifications? They are, at least on paper, a panel of satisfied customers. Evidence of their common sense. "This is not a business," said Amy Alkon, who rounds out the trio. "It's what we love to do."

The Advice Ladies were born in a downtown diner. The trio helped their waiter solve some problems in his love life. They decided to

offer their counseling service to the world at large.

Their audience may soon expand. Robert de Niro's Tribeca Films is planning an Advice Ladies talk show.

The ladies said the No. 1 problem people have is how to meet other people. The runner-up: Lost loves. Each problem is handled carefully — even the case of a grossly overweight, unshaven, over-all-wearing dweeb who was looking for love in vain.

"Caroline told him gently, 'your personal hygiene is very important,'" Minnick recounted.

They can recall only one person who felt they steered her wrong, a woman who took their advice to make the first move and ask a man out. She did. It didn't go well. Not our fault, said Minnick. "We didn't give bad advice," she said. "We weren't responsible for her bad taste."



The Babelsberg Studios come alive again

By Pierre Albert Lambert

Will a European Hollywood see the light of day at the gates of Berlin, in the former studios which were the cradle of expressionist cinema? French and German investors are betting on it.

PARIS — A few months before she died, in 1992, Marlene Dietrich launched a pathetic appeal to her fellow citizens: "Save the Babelsberg Studios from ruin!" The actress's wish is to be fulfilled. This mythical place, where so many chapters of the history of cinema were written, is going to come alive again, thanks to a French initiative.

For the sum of 500 million francs, Compagnie Immobilière Phoenix (CIP), a subsidiary of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, has bought the legend-making studios, where Marlene and Greta Garbo made their debuts.

Sternberg shot the Blue Angel there and Fritz Lang made Metropolis and Doctor Mabuse. It was in Babelsberg that the first experimental sound film was made in 1926.

Since 1912, the former temple of expressionism covers 461,000m², half an hour away from the German capital. There are cardboard villages, a dozen dilapidated studios, 2,000m² of sets, 137 buildings and sheds which still contain 150,000 costumes, 2,000 wigs, artificial beards, etc.

In Babelsberg's golden age, up to 2,400 people worked there. There were actors, directors, writers, stage

hands, scenery designers, wardrobe mistresses, etc., a real hive of activity. During the war years, it was in the hands of the UFA company and served as the centre for Nazi propaganda. Visitors are shown the office from which Goebbels exerted his dictatorship over the media.

In order to bring Babelsberg back to life, an ambitious project, in two stages, has been created:

— To build a European Hollywood which would be, for the 7th Art, what the Airbus is for the aeronautics industry.

— To create a prestigious town all around it, with residential areas, luxury hotels, an international conference centre, television stations, the biggest cinema school in Europe, etc. It would be a kind of Berlin-style Neuilly and a media city unique in the world.

It is located near Lake Swanssee, not far from Potsdam and the Palace of Sans-Souci, which was the "Versailles of the Kings of Prussia," and it is true that no site

could have been more suitable. **Cut-price selling and speculation**

In all, the French will invest two billion francs in the double operation. The Bertelsmann group, which is the German giant in advertising, is contributing financially as well as the Land of Brandenburg and the cities of Berlin and Potsdam. The project should lead to the creation of 3,500 jobs.

Director Volker Schlöndorff (who made *The Drum*) has been put in charge of the New Babelsberg Studios Company. Among his advisers, there are various cinema personalities, in particular, Wim Wenders (Paris Texas) who shares his enthusiasm about the project.

"New Babelsberg will only produce quality works", assures Schlöndorff, who is to film *Le Bateau Ivre* there with famous actors to play the parts of Rimbaud and Verlaine. Berlin's location on the hinge between East and West and the cultural ferment that has been going on there

since the fall of the Wall, are sure assets for him.

People in Germany are protesting against selling-off the heritage and the speculative nature of the Babelsberg operation. For those against it, the revival of the studios, which, in their opinion, poses a lot of problems, in fact masks a widespread real-estate scoop.

The heads of the CIP protest. After all, their parent company, the CGE, is a big operator in audiovisual and already runs the Paris film studios in Boulogne-Billancourt. It is also the majority shareholder in the capital of the Union Générale Cinématographique (UGC) and the television channel Canal.

They promise that the major part of the profits coming from the real estate operation will be used for the new Cinema City. After all, Hollywood got out of the slump by selling off some land in Beverly Hills.

The German cinecitta, which came out of the sombre years of Nazism and of



It was in Berlin's Babelsberg Studios that J. Von Sternberg produced his 1930 masterpiece *The Blue Angel* which immortalised Marlene Dietrich.

communism battered, but still alive, deserves to be given another chance. Schlöndorff prophesies that it will lead a cultural revolution and there will be a return to real cinema.

"In Europe, we have just as much talent and money as in California," he says. "But there was no place where these forces could be concentrated." The film-maker dreams of a time when Euro-

pean cinema, which is today dominated for 90 per cent by the Americans, will once again rank first at home. Thanks to the revival of Babelsberg — L'Actualité En France.

Buarque is back — this time as one of Brazil's 'beaten generation'

By Tony Smith
The Associated Press

LISBON — If any Brazilian could be expected to pass a biting, melodious judgment on the corruption and scandal that wracks his country, it would be Chico Buarque De Holanda.

But the sad, litling "samba tristes" and more upbeat pop songs of the singer-songwriter's latest stage show steer clear of politics, at least that aspect of politics.

During the 1960s and '70s, Buarque's songs lashed Bra-

zil's military dictatorship, often confounding censors with clever lyrics passed off as love ballads or sambas, and giving hope to millions who dreamed of democratic freedoms.

The singer himself spent years in exile in Italy. Now he's back home, but has not toured Brazil since 1975.

"In the 1970s, I wanted to overthrow the government," Buarque told reporters before opening his new tour recently in Lisbon. "Today I'm not interested in over-

throwing anybody."

All six shows in Portugal were sold out, and Buarque hoped for a similar reception at other tour stops in France, Italy and back home in Brazil.

Still, many fans and critics were disappointed that he had omitted such caustic favourites as "Meu Caro Amigo" (meaning, My Dear Friend) — a letter in song from a Brazilian to an exiled friend complaining that "something black" (a reference to military rule) was darkening everyday life.

Critics argue there's still much to malign in Brazil — and they say Buarque has failed to do so by singing about love, dancing and soccer (one of his favourite pastimes).

Brazil's generals loosened their grip in 1985, when military-approved poet-politician Jose Sarney became civilian president. After a lackluster four-year tenure plagued by economic chaos and alleged nepotism, Mr. Sarney handed over the reins to Fernando Collor de Mello.

After a promising start, Mr. Collor was soon embroiled in even deeper scandals and was impeached last year. His deputy, Itamar Franco, took over as president.

Buarque's latest songs, which he wrote while recovering in bed from torn bigaments playing soccer, do not tackle such problems.

"There's no shortage of freedom in Brazil today," he explained. "Today the problem is another one... Whoever lives in misery has absolutely no freedoms,

rights or anything."

Countless Brazilians live in abject poverty, while a small minority enjoy the country's riches.

One song in Buarque's new repertoire is "Pivete" (Street Kid), an old melody with new lyrics that tell of the plight of Brazil's seven million-plus street children who beg or rob to survive and are increasingly the targets of violent, organised crime.

But the singer acknowledged that writing songs about the kids' problems can do little to help them.

"It's insufficient to touch people with a song, to draw their attention with a song, because the reality already is so overpowering," he said.

So he tried another medium, writing a novel, "O Estorvo," meaning Nuisance, is a social critique that sold well in Brazil and Europe and won acclaim for its original style.

Buarque comes from a literary, liberal family. His father was a distinguished historian, and his uncle Aurelio compiled what effectively became Brazil's official dic-

tionary.

But now back in the music scene, Buarque admitted to feeling "a certain tiredness" resulting from being a member of what he called Brazilian music's "beaten generation" — singers with a message such as Caetano Veloso.

"We spent 20 years demanding democracy," he said. "Luckily today the political role of the artist carries much less weight than, say, in the 1970s... Today, showbiz has been reduced to pure showbiz."

Close encounter with beauty

An interview with supermodel Tricia Helfer

By Anthony S. Vanger

NEW YORK — Have the angels of the silver screen disappeared for good? Those goddesses of glamour, perfect in every way, sultry, mysterious, and above all, completely out of reach of the common man? Hayworth, Kelly, Monroe, to name a few, were women who had more than beauty: They were emblems of a generation. They defined the ideal, and later, with the advent of fashion photography, they went on to become an idealised version of perfection.

No wrinkles, not an ounce of unwanted fat, no curve that failed to stir the mind's eye with tortuous anticipation. Of course, the public knew that Marilyn spent four to five hours making herself up before the impatient director managed to call out "Action!" But that was beside the point. Reality was not in demand. Women got enough of that every day in the mirror. They wanted fantasy. Pure, story-book fantasy, and these beauties would become the players of their dreams. Take Grace Kelly for example. She took the fantasy to its limits: She married Prince Rainier of Monaco. A prince no less! The fairy tale became a reality.

Once charming, Snow White, Cinderella relinquished their fictional status. It actually happened! Right there for all the world to see and we could never get enough of it. Today however Hollywood offers us Sharon Stone wielding an ice pick. It gives us Kim Basinger cavorting with Mickey Rourke in a dingy, rain-filled stairwell, and even in what many considered to be one of the last few years' most romantic movies, When Harry Met Sally, Meg Ryan faked an orgasm in the middle of a crowded diner. Romantic? Glamorous? Certainly not.

Enter the Supermodel. We have seen them everywhere, from Rome to Paris, London to New York. They are immaculate in whatever they do (or do not) wear. Ten years ago they were a mere collection of faces selling cosmetics, but now they have become household names — Cindy Crawford, considered by many to be the best of the crop, Christy Turlington, Naomi Campbell, Christie Brinkley, Linda Evangelista, Tatjana Patz, Claudia Schiffer, Paulina Porizkova — the list is ever-growing. They have come a long way from simply being props upon which to drape the season's latest offerings. They are what the Hayworths and the Monroes used to be: Pure glamour, unbridled by reality, more perfect than perfection. They have filled a gap in popular culture that had been vacant for over a decade. Now it is not the movie stars who capture the fairy-tale imaginations of the public, but these models. Models? No, Supermodels. Super, as in "of the highest rank and extraordinary."

One such woman is Tricia Helfer of Ford Models, Inc. This 5' 10" stunning Canadian beauty was the winner of the 1992 Supermodel of the World contest in Hollywood. In true story-book fashion, she was born and raised in a farm in Donalda, Alberta, Canada, a town with a population of 200, until one day she was discovered waiting in a movie line by a Ford model agency scout. What happened next is the stuff of many a teenager's dreams. She won a \$250,000 contract with Ford in addition to a necklace and earring set worth \$25,000. She has strutted her incredible 35-24-36 frame on the runways of Paris, Milan and New York and is currently featured in the new campaigns for Chanel and Versace fashion houses. In August she will grace the cover of Elle magazine in America. She rents an apartment in Paris and is presently working for Harper's Bazaar with one

of the world's top photographers, Patrick Demarchelier. And all this at the tender age of 19.

I managed to catch up with her in between photo sessions at the offices of Eileen Ford. As I waited for her to arrive, I began to worry about what to ask this newest star of the fashion world. Furthermore, would I be able to speak or would her beauty reduce me to a blithering wreck? After all, my relationship with Supermodels up until this point had been strictly two-dimensional: They would stare out at me in silent beauty, larger than life, beckoning, but also strangely distant, while I, mere pedestrian and commuter would stare back, dumb with yearning. But here I could actually address Beauty and what's more, Beauty answered back.

I had to ask her if she was what she appeared to be, or was she something else. As it turned out, the answer lay in what Eileen Ford, fairy godmother and matriarch of the modelling world, calls "the X factor."

Question: Do you enjoy being in front of the camera?
Answer: "In the beginning, it's really difficult, because you don't know what you look like. So it's difficult to relax. Now I have a better idea of what I can and cannot do with my face. I know what looks good and what doesn't and I can enjoy myself to a certain point. But it is work."

Q: What were the problems you faced in getting used to the camera?

A: (laughing) "I have a problem with my lip. I actually have a nickname. They call me 'Elvis,' because in the beginning I had no idea what I was doing and when I got nervous — and believe me when you're up there on a runway in front of all these people it's pretty nerve-racking — well, anyway, my top lip would curl up on one side. So I had to learn to control it."

Q: How were you able to control a natural tick?
A: "You just try and concentrate and before a shoot I do face exercises. It was funny, because I went to Milan a couple of months before the Supermodel contest. The whole two weeks, nothing happened. The last night, 14 finalists were named and it started moving. Then it came to eight finalists, and it started moving even more and by the time I won, it was just like, if you see all my pictures from Supermodel, they were all ruined because of this lip that is stuck away over my cheek!"

Q: So now that you have changed that part of your personality. Is there a constant demand for you to change this or that? Is there any room for yourself to come out, or maybe that is not what is required?

A: "I think that's what a lot of the problem is with being a model. You can work with the way you deal with people, and the way you move in front of the camera, but after a while you can only be yourself. I mean, I am often treated like an object. They pull at this and push at that, tugging here, or if your nose doesn't look right, and you feel like pushing them off and saying, 'Look, there's a person inside here. Stop it!'"

Q: How is it when you go back home?
A: "Back home, since this Supermodel contest it's hilarious. I'm from such a small town that I'm like a star there. I go out and I sign autographs. Actually I went home at Easter and when we went out to a club, they had

bodyguards around me all night. Another time we walked into a store and everyone goes, 'Ohhh! My family thinks that it's always like that for me, but it's not.' Not yet anyway..."

A: (she laughs) "We'll see."

Q: Is Christy Turlington someone you look up to? Is she the perfect image of a model to you?

A: "I don't have any perfect image of what a model should be. I'm not one to idolise people. I do think though, aside from the fact that her face is perfect, she is classic. It doesn't seem like she's striving for attention. I really dislike people who are always putting on an air and being fake, and when I work with her she's always been really nice."

Q: Is the competition fierce?

A: "Yes, it's competitive... I really like Karen Malder. I was working with her last night and there's others, but Christy is the nicest and the most classic. She's the most beautiful to me."

Q: Why do you think models have become so famous in the last ten years or so?

A: "I really don't know. I started after the models took over from the film stars, so I wasn't there when it changed. But I think that part of it is that people have come to realise that the women at the top aren't just faces. They're business women — they have to be to get up there. And I think they admire that."

Q: As well as the beauty...

A: "Yes, the beauty is always first, but again, there's the personality that comes through."

Q: Is there anything you wouldn't do on camera?

A: "It depends on the photographer. I mean, if it's a well-known photographer, then you'll trust him more because he won't put out anything that makes him look bad. I've done topless, and it didn't bother me."

Q: Would you ever pose for Playboy magazine?

A: "No, I wouldn't do it... (laughing) I don't have the body to do Playboy. I'm not against nude pictures. I don't like tacky nudes, I like beautiful nude pictures. I dislike where the woman is sitting there like a piece of meat. But if she's covered up, with something across her like this, sensual, but not just sex, then I think it's very sexy."

Q: What do you wear when you go out?

A: "It depends. I mean, I don't go out that much. I've never been to any clubs in Paris or New York. I swear it's true! But if I go out for dinner with friends, I like to wear something sexy."

Q: Do you have to work hard to keep yourself in shape?

A: "I do. I know some girls don't, but I care about what I eat and I like to be professional. I mean, if you have a big job the next day, you don't go out and party the night before. Your work is your face, and if you're tired it just doesn't have the glow it needs, or you may have big bags under your eyes. You have to make sure your nails are perfect. It's hard work, people don't realise, but it's a full-time job."

Q: What are the down-sides about being a model?

A: "Just that everyone wants to be around all the time..."



Being a supermodel requires hard work and dedication, according to Tricia Helfer

It's kind of a pain. And then there's the long-lost relatives syndrome, you know: They knew me five years ago and now they want to be my best friends, but I don't know what to say to them."

Q: And the up-sides?

A: "The money. I mean, there's no way that I could be making the kind of money that I'm making now back home. I'm 19, so hopefully I can start saving something and then when it's time to get out, I'll be ready. But right now, that's a long way off. Maybe in a couple of years I'll really get sick of modelling, but I can't say yet. I've just started in this business — a year, a year and a half — and I'm gonna work as hard as I can to make it work."

With that she left, back to Eileen Ford's town-house for some well-earned sleep. The next week she would be off to Paris for more photo shoots, then back to New York for the collections. The next time I saw her, I knew it would be like before. She, staring out at me in silent beauty, larger than life, beckoning, but also strangely distant, while I, mere pedestrian and commuter would stare back, dumb with yearning. But this time I would understand the secret, or what Eileen Ford calls "the X factor." Cindy Crawford has it, so does Christy Turlington. And now Tricia Helfer. Beauty? Yes, unparalleled. But there is something else which lies deeper than the epidermis. It is in their eyes and the way they move, in their very being. They have a personality that complements the world they come into contact with. People want to be around them. Not just because they look good, but because they make you feel good. And like champagne, they make everything seem that little bit more special — World News Link.

Exercise helps protect bones, but not alone

By Jane E. Brody

NEW YORK — Concerns about osteoporosis, a quarter of hip fractures occur in men. And among men who reach their 80s, one in six will break a hip.

As with many other things in life, if you do not use bones, you lose them. Using bones means working the muscles that support them against a resistant force like gravity. Bone is built up in response to stress and breaks down almost as soon as the stress dissipates. Thus, astronauts outside the tug of gravity and people bedridden by illness or disability lose bone very rapidly.

Many studies have indicated that exercise can help to maintain and even increase the density of bones.

For example, a study at the University of California in San Francisco found that men in their 20s who combined weight training with aerobic exercise for an average of six hours a week for at least two years had denser spinal bones than men who did only weight training or only aerobics. In turn, all those groups had denser bones than a comparable group of sedentary men.

Bone is a "fluid" tissue, constantly being broken down and reformed. To favour buildup over breakdown, the muscles attached to the bones must be contracted and strengthened. This produces piezoelectricity, a force that results in bone deposition at the stress points.

Unless bones are repeatedly subjected to stress, the breakdown process outruns the buildup and bones gradually become porous and weak. Activities like weight lifting that involve high loads and high stresses (and consequent muscle strengthening) are more effective at building bone than activities that involve many repetitive cycles, like running, walking or swimming.

Strength training like lifting weight or working out on resistance machines has recently emerged as one of the best ways to strengthen bones in the spine and elsewhere, even in the elderly. Alternative activities include using a rowing machine or an exercise cycle with increased resistance on the flywheel.

The benefits of exercise to bone seem to be specific to the activity. Thus, runners and cyclists tend to have denser bones than sedentary people in their legs and hips, but not in their arms or spines. Tennis players have denser bones in their playing arm than in the arm that merely tosses serves. Swimmers who do a vigorous crawl would have denser bones in their arms

and shoulders than in their legs.

To strengthen bones bodywide, a variety of activities should be pursued that use different muscles against resistance, for example, cycling and swimming.

Although exercise is the only way known to increase bone mass after a person's 20s, it cannot work without the proper support.

This means taking in an adequate amount of the bone-building mineral calcium, preferably from food and if not, through supplements: 1,000 milligrammes a day

before menopause and 1,500 milligrammes after.

Nor can exercise alone increase bone mass enough to offset the losses that result from estrogen depletion at menopause. Thus, experts in osteoporosis often recommend estrogen replacement therapy for all post-menopausal women who can use it safely.

Furthermore, they recommend adopting bone-building living habits during the teenage and young-adult years to establish a larger "retirement fund" of bone — International Herald Tribune.

Ideas for a Bone-Building Workout

Aerobic exercise like running may help increase bone mass in the legs, but won't necessarily help bones elsewhere (in the arms, for example) unless done with hand weights. Here are some exercises that target the spine and upper body, and can help increase bone density bodywide.

MUSCLE-STRENGTHENING: FOR SPINE AND HIPS

Isometric abdominal contraction
Strengthens abdominal muscles, which protect the back against strain.

Lie on back, press lower back against floor, bend knees to 90 degrees. Tuck chin to chest and contract abdominal muscles. Hold position for 10 seconds.



Back extension
Strengthens back, buttocks and hamstrings.

Begin on all fours. With back flat, lift one leg so heel is level with buttocks. Contract buttocks and thigh; hold for 10 seconds. When you feel balanced, lift opposite arm simultaneously with straight leg.



WEIGHT-LOADING: FOR ARMS AND UPPER BODY

Compressive loading: sitting push-ups

Seated in a chair with your feet on the floor, grasp edge of chair seat. Straighten arms to raise yourself an inch off the chair (do not lock elbows); hold your weight on your hands for 10 seconds. Slowly bend elbows to lower yourself.



Tenile loading: bar hang

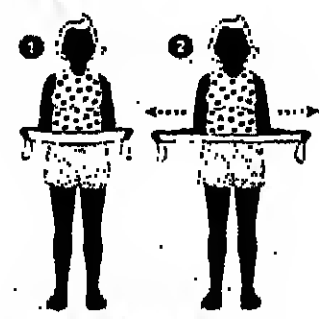
Hang from a bar for 10 seconds. NOTE: Avoid this exercise if you have a wrist, elbow or shoulder injury.



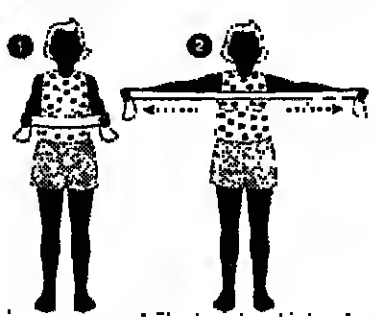
RESISTANCE: FOR SHOULDERS AND BACK

These exercises use a resistance stretch band, a strip of stretchy material about a yard long, to counteract rounding of shoulders and back.

External rotation
Grasp band with both hands; keep elbows pressed against waist. Slowly open forearms outward.



Horizontal abduction
Grasp band with arms stretched out in front, about chest height. Slowly open arms to the side; do not lock elbows.



Adapted from *Melpomene Journal*

Warrior's daughter who walks a lonely road

By Sarah Helm

ASKED to describe her impressions of Yasser Arafat, Yael Dayan says he was "nicer" than she had expected. "He has a public appearance that is not very appealing. But that quickly disappears. He is a good listener. Very quick. Humorous and gentle. He was a very worried man when I saw him."

It is an incongruous image, captured in a photograph on Ms. Dayan's office wall: the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) passing the time of day with the diminutive daughter of one of Israel's most revered warriors, Moshe Dayan.

Yael Dayan, 54, is the only Israeli member of parliament to have taken advantage of new laws liberalising unofficial contacts with the PLO by going to Tunis last January to meet the chairman himself. Now more and more Labour ministers are following her lead, saying that direct talks are the only possible solution to the Palestinian question.

"We are 45 years old. We are a nation — it is not a question of nation-building any more. It is a demagogic thing — mythical. The feeling that the whole world is against us — it is nonsense."

What would General Dayan have thought? "He asked many times to talk to Arafat, in the days when they were still terrorists. Arafat refused. In his later years my father realised we had to get the bell off of there — let them run their own lives."

But what would the general have thought about his daughter's present to Mr. Arafat? The photograph on her wall shows the PLO chairman happily accepting a copy of Ms. Dayan's own book, *My Father, His Daughter*, in which she catalogues her father's adulterous relationships — with, among others, a schoolfriend of hers — and his notorious greed.

Ms. Dayan shows rare signs of discomfiture. "A book is a book. I am not a censor. I do not choose my readers. Anyway, there is no criticism of my father in the book...not in the total sense — not of his political life; and not, really, in his personal life either. There is nothing in it, that was not in the newspapers, after all."

Yael Dayan is certain always to be known as "Dayan's daughter." Her profile evokes his sharp features with uncanny accuracy — only the black eye-patch is missing. Her ambiguous reaction



Yael Dayan

to her father's family betrayals has failed to shake her deep-down adoration and respect for the man who used to take her as a child to the top of a building in Jerusalem to peer through his binoculars at Jordanian soldiers on the other side.

His influence is clearly present in her readiness to embrace controversy. Beside the photograph of her with Mr. Arafat is another of her, topless, sunbathing on a Tel Aviv beach on Yom Kippur. Male sexism is very much behind the many vicious attacks on her since she became an MP, she says.

But "the religious" are her biggest problem. Ms. Dayan says her greatest joy of the year was watching "the religious" splutter into their beads when she brought gays and lesbians to the Knesset to promote homosexual

rights. (She told them King David was gay, too, which did not help). "The religious feel very deeply that for a man to sleep with another man is as bad as sleeping with an animal. They say it deserves the death penalty."

Again, what would her father have thought of her stands on these matters? "He couldn't have cared less. His problem was that he probably didn't know that there were laws discriminating against them. He took it for granted that equal rights existed."

Ms. Dayan says that it is because Israel continues to "take for granted" the predominance of security concerns that most Israelis today fail to see the need for civil rights for Palestinians. "It is inconceivable that we should still have to discuss the Palestinian right to self-determination. We are still doubting that they are people. This is so stupid it is like an ostrich burying its head."

For many Israelis, Moshe Dayan epitomised the proud image of the Zionist nation-builder. The prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, of the same generation, has tried of late to evoke the pride of nation-building as a palliative for the country's current problems. But Yael Dayan speaks for a different generation. "We are 45 years old. We are a nation — it is not a question of nation-building any more. It is a demagogic thing — mythical. The feeling that the whole world is against us — it is nonsense" — The Independent.

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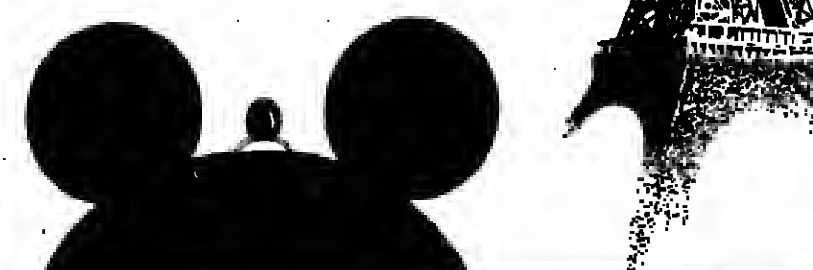
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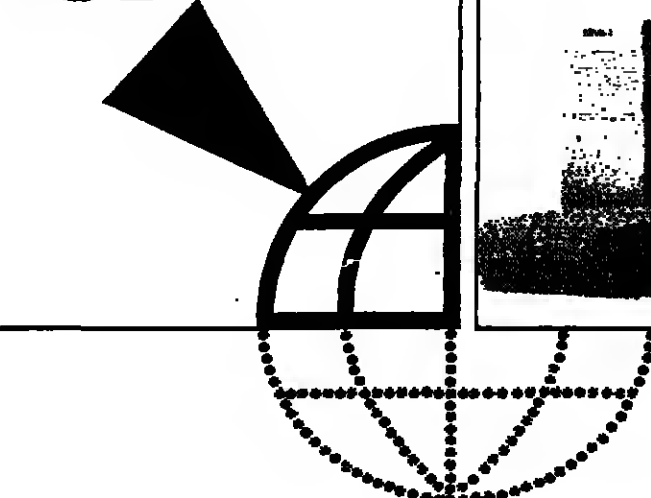
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Jobs outlook seen bleak in OECD region

PARIS (Agencies) — Over 50 million people — roughly as many as the populations of Britain, Turkey or Thailand — could be affected by open and disguised unemployment in Western industrial nations and Japan by next year, an OECD study indicated Tuesday.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the real extent of labour market slack linked to a three-year economic slowdown in the West was not fully captured by "measured" unemployment, projected to reach 36 million in the OECD area by early next year.

Highlighting the need for government policies to come to grips with worsening employment trends — a key issue at the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven industrial powers earlier this month — the OECD said jobless rates tended to underestimate the gravity of the situation.

Most OECD countries were also faced with "substantial disguised unemployment," represented by "discouraged" workers and people involuntarily employed in part-time jobs, it said in its annual report on the employment outlook.

The report said that in 1991, these two categories, in which women outnumbered men, represented over 13 million people,

equal to just under half the jobless total in 18 out of the 24 OECD countries, including the United States and Japan.

Discouraged workers are persons who stay out of the labour market, or youth who do not enter it, deterred by poor job prospects, according to the OECD.

The numbers of discouraged workers and those forced to accept part-time jobs for lack of any better, tend to rise in a downturn, it said, implying that the total could be markedly higher now than in 1991.

Data in the report showed that countries which had low jobless rates in 1991, including Japan and the Nordic nations, would have significantly higher rates if discouraged workers were included into the labour force.

Japan, which had a jobless rate of 2.1 per cent, had 1.23 million discouraged workers or 1.9 per cent of the labour force, meaning a gross rate of 3.9 per cent.

It also had 770,000 involuntary part-time workers, which translated into an "underemployment rate" of 1.2 per cent, the OECD said.

Japan and the United States accounted for nearly two-thirds of the 3.7 million discouraged workers recorded in the OECD in 1991, and the United States for half the nine million involuntary

part-time workers, with a 4.0 per cent underemployment rate, the report said.

Overall, discouraged workers accounted for 1.1 per cent of the labour force of the 15 countries concerned, which had an underemployment rate of 2.4 per cent.

The OECD study, which described the overall short-term outlook for jobs as bleak, said the OECD unemployment rate could touch 8.75 per cent by year-end, matching the previous post-war high recorded in 1983, and marking a steep rise to 36 million jobs from 24.5 million in 1990.

Confirming projections released earlier this month, the report said Europe's jobless rate could touch 12 per cent next year with 23 million out of work.

It said the main challenge facing governments, especially in continental Europe, was to prevent the sharp rise in jobless figures from "ratcheting up" into a higher level of unemployment that cannot be reversed quickly once recovery comes.

Secondly, they would need to speed up the upgrading of knowledge and skill levels in order to meet the challenges of technological change and growing competition from non-OECD countries.

This would require a "coherent approach" toward sound, non-inflationary economic policies

and structural reforms to make labour and product markets more flexible, the report said.

It reaffirmed the need for a shift of resources from passive income support for the unemployed to "active" measures to mobilise labour supply, develop job-related skills and promote labour market efficiency. Social and labour market policies must reinforce one another, and education and training must be geared to the needs of working life, the report said.

The report recommended that governments help the long-term unemployed keep in contact with the job market, ease employers' hiring and firing costs, and facilitate temporary jobs.

Conventional state programmes to cut unemployment through general retraining work less well than those targeting a specific group — such as mothers returning to the workforce, the report said.

The longer workers spend in one job, the more on-the-job training they receive — making it easier to find an employer, the report said. Japanese workers, who average 11 years in the same job, received more training than Americans, with seven years.

The report also noted that earnings rose higher for university graduates in the 1980s than for

lesser educated workers, especially in the United States and Britain.

The OECD explained the inequality by the great influx of young people into the labour market in the 1980s, pushing down wages, and increased demand for the university degrees in most occupations.

There is a long-term unemployment trap, a trap reflecting the hiring preferences of employers or a complete collapse of motivation and work skills on the part of the unemployed person himself," OECD economist John Martin told a news conference.

In a wide-ranging analysis, the OECD said long-term employment tended to be linked to tough labour laws, which discourage companies from hiring staff, and good unemployment benefits, which discourage people from

seeking work.

But it found no easy solutions for the long-term unemployed — who make up some 50 per cent of total unemployment in Europe. It called for retraining, and a shift to highly skilled, high value-added, high-wage jobs.

In grim profile of the long-term unemployed, the OECD said that they tend to be between 25 and 44 years old, and poorly educated. About 55 per cent are likely to be unemployed one year later. Health problems are greater, the risk of suicide has been found to be up to 20 times higher and mortality up to 50 per cent higher than for employed people.

They are also so marginalised as to be excluded from the usual self-correcting mechanism whereby higher unemployment forces down wages, leading to the creation of more jobs.

Yugoslav central bank to issue 50m dinar note Monday

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia, gripped by raging inflation, will issue a 50 million dinar bank note Monday, national bank officials said.

At current black market rates, this is worth a little over \$3. National Bank of Yugoslavia director Vojislav Tomic said the bank's vaults were empty of cash because most notes now had no value, although up to 12 trillion dinars' worth were being released daily.

He said the vaults should normally contain about one third of the total cash in circulation.

Yugoslavia's hyperinflation has reached a staggering daily rate of 15 per cent, forcing people to carry thick wads of money even for simple purchases such as a loaf of bread.

"If you want to buy a new Mercedes, you need another car just to carry the money," said one Belgrade resident.

One dollar Tuesday fetched 15.5 million dinars on the black market. Annual inflation is currently estimated at about one thousand billion per cent.

The largest banknote currently in circulation is the five million dinar note which worth 30 cents Tuesday. When it was issued late in May it was worth \$12.25.

Black market dealers exchange \$100 for a two-inch (five cm) thick wad of 310 five million dinar notes, forcing many people to give up carrying wallets.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 22, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Sun enters Leo with four good aspects that suggest you shouldn't close your ears and eyes to the suggestions of others that could prove to be beneficial to you and others in your immediate circle.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) During the daytime you seem to find it difficult to get rid of private and secret anxieties and situations but tonight much happiness can be yours.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may seem to get your points across to friends and acquaintances during the daytime but tonight social affairs can be brilliant, satisfactory.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you do in the outside world requires more than usual care, caution and consideration to prevent discredit, while tonight public activities are just great.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You certainly would be wise to sidestep that new activity that intrigues you during the daytime even though tonight is fine for you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about what you can do to diplomatically carry through with promises that you have made during the daytime and tonight you can see the future more clearly.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A discontented associate can be a real pain in the neck during the day so discount what is said or done while tonight be with most cheerful people you know.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Keep on the lookout for some snag or tangle in work activities during the day while tonight what you do and believe is a very satisfactory, beneficial manner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The daytime can bring you a real test regarding your patience in carrying through with your special gift while tonight is great for romance.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You don't see during the daytime how conditions could possibly work out well at your residence but tonight they become just hunky-dory.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A day when communications seem difficult to put across due to sudden obstacles or expenses but tonight get out in the world and see charming contacts.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can get your financial affairs in real muddle if you take any risks of chance today but tonight your judgment becomes accurate so follow it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are apt to be blown hither and thither by every errant wind today so keep poised and tonight all works out very much to your favour.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 23, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will need to keep working diligently this evening though you are desirous of getting off to new places with unusual people who you feel can be helpful to your long-term goals and interests.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Devise progress you desire and then quickly put into actual motion.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consult with the experienced friends who understand how best to get your cherished longings and then do the private work required by you personally.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have an influential person now who will back your worldly ambitions so get that support after which you can do your part to make a success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Investigate all phases of a new plan of action that will add to your stature and then take it to a prominent person to get worldly support for it.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You need to discuss in detail and get approval and suggestions from mate before you enter upon a new project that can be very good for you both.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get in touch with a person who knows how to make traditional

activities a success and let your wishes in this regard be known, then make changes that are suggested.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well how you have most efficiently been doing what you have agreed to do and what is found to be helpful by new methods, formulas.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can make plans with usual companions for some specialised entertainment during the day but tonight new contacts can show how to add to pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can do what your close family attachment wishes you to do after which take that person with you to some place of amusement to lighten burden.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have every chance to find ways by which you and usual allies can be more successful at daily tasks, tonight you can enhance charm at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have very good common sense ideas today and you are able to see ways to handle assets while tonight get into communications with outside contacts.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Let those of whom you are fond personally know of your continuing devotion in some delicate but definite manner, later you see ways to make more money.

Controversial owners of Harrods selling other 59 department stores

LONDON (AP) — The Egyptian brothers who staged the controversial buyout of British retailing empire — including luxurious Harrods Department Stores — said Tuesday they will sell the other stores in a public stock offering.

Mohammed Al Fayed and Ali Al Fayed, who were accused in a government report of lying about their background and finances during the billion-dollar acquisition of House of Fraser (HOF) PLC, are giving up control in preparation for next year's sale.

The new publicly owned company will be one of Britain's biggest retailing businesses, with 59 department stores, including Debenhams and John Lewis, and annual sales of £700 million (\$1.05 billion).

The chain stretches throughout England, Scotland and Wales. But Harrods, a favourite London shopping place of the royal family and thousands of tourists,

as well as a bomb target of the Irish Republican Army, will remain under control of the Fayed.

Mohammed Al Fayed has been quoted as saying "only God" would take the famous department store from him.

"Mohammed Al Fayed likes to have trophies and Harrods was the trophy," said Katherine Wynne, a stock analyst who follows the retailing industry for the London brokerage Kleinwort Benson. "I don't think he was interested in the rest of the chain."

A source familiar with the Al Fayed family's strategy estimated the stock sale could bring in £500 million (\$750 million). But a retailing expert at a major London investment bank said £400 million (\$600 million) sounded like a better bet, given the company's revenues.

Both would speak only on condition of anonymity.

The Al Fayed can eliminate

the debt taken on in the £615 million (\$1 billion) buyout of House of Fraser in 1985, through cash raised in the stock sale and other asset sales, the first source said without elaboration.

The Al Fayed insisted they were not being pressured to erase their debt, noting House of Fraser had been consistently profitable and they have been paying their bills.

"The current trading performance of HOF stores is extremely encouraging, but we believe the full potential of the company will be realised most swiftly and most effectively if it returns to its former status of an independent, publicly held company," said Ali Al Fayed, who is stepping down as chairman.

He will be replaced by Brian McGowan, who recently said he would quit as chief executive of Williams Holdings PLC, a top British industrial company.

The Al Fayed are selling 100

per cent of their stake in House of Fraser and want to "make sure the company is running wholly independently" with Mr. McGowan in charge by immediately getting out of the day-to-day operations, a spokesman said.

The takeover of House of Fraser by the Al Fayed brothers stirred sensational allegations of trickery and deceit, although the government decided not to prosecute anyone.

Lionel PLC, a British conglomerate run by chief executive Roland "Tiny" Rowland, a rival bidder for Harrods, has filed a lawsuit claiming the Al Fayed obtained control of House of Fraser through "wrongful interference."

Paul Spicer, a Lionhro director, declined to a telephone interview Tuesday to spell out the damage Lionhro hopes to get in a trial scheduled for next year or to say how the stock offering could affect the lawsuit.

Israeli state firms report \$78m loss

TEL AVIV (R) — Defence industry losses plunged Israeli state-owned companies into a 220 million shekel (\$78.5 million) loss in 1992, the head of the government Companies Authority said Tuesday.

Yossi Nitzani said state-owned corporations excluding defence and agricultural losses showed a profit of 801 million shekels (\$286 million) last year.

But defence industry losses of one billion shekels (\$364.6 million) — with a 133 million shekel

(\$47.5 million) agricultural sector loss — meant overall state companies posted a 220 million shekel loss last year.

"The results (for 1992) are indeed beautiful — if we separate out the defence sector," Mr. Nitzani, presenting the government companies annual report, told journalists.

State defence firms — Israel Military Industries (IMI) and Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) have been hard hit by post-cold

war world defence cuts.

Total income for all companies in 1992 was 29.3 billion shekels (\$10.46 billion) compared to 27.5 billion shekels (\$9.8 billion) in 1991.

Mr. Nitzani, who oversees the slow privatisation of 170 state firms, said the poor defence industries showing came as no surprise.

"We are going through structural changes in the market, in everything connected with defence industries," he said.

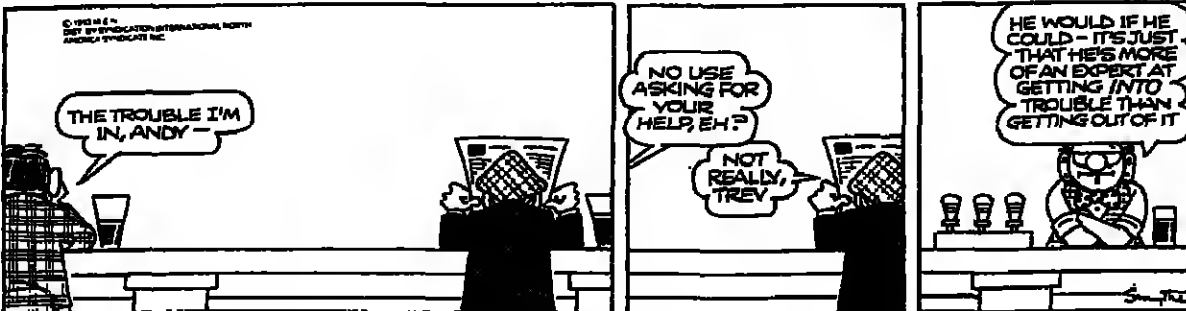
In 1991, state-owned enterprises excluding defence sector showed a profit of 542.8 million shekels, earnings wiped out by IMI's 1991 losses of 548.3 million shekels.

IMI has not turned a profit since conversion from an arm of the defence ministry to a state company in 1990. IAI, which did post a profit in 1991, now says it must lay off 1,500 employees and cut salaries by the end of the year.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Russian oil exports give OPEC another headache

MOSCOW (R) — World oil markets, where alarm bells are ringing among producers over a threatened glut, may have to soak up increased supplies from Russia this year, senior Russian government and oil industry officials said.

"We have great optimism about oil output. There are very many signs of stabilisation... figures showing output stabilising after a decline to 398 million tonnes (about eight million b/d) last year from 570 million tonnes (11.4 million b/d) in 1988."

Officials expect Russian oil output of 340-350 million tonnes (6.8-7.0 million b/d) this year, down around 15 per cent from 1992 levels.

Vagit Alekperov, president of Russia's independent Lukoil Company, said higher first half exports were due mainly to reduced deliveries to other former Soviet republics.

These fell by more than 40 per cent to 26 million tonnes (1.04 million b/d) in January-June. "It is possible to maintain these levels (for exports outside the former Soviet Union) because output is stabilising," he said during a break at an energy sector conference in parliament this week.

Lukoil, a newly created vertically integrated company, accounts for 19 per cent of output and 12-13 per cent of exports.

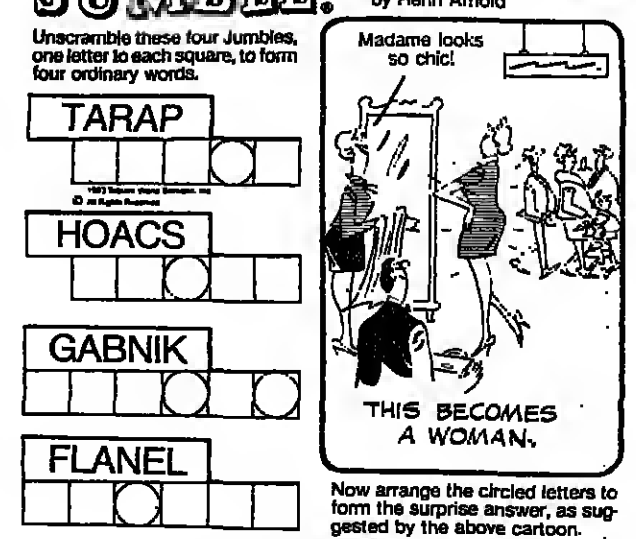
Mr. Fomin said supplies to the other republics would rise if they met their payment obligations to Russia. "The governments, Supreme Soviets (parliaments) and central banks of the independent states must settle these questions," he said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Thanks, hon. I feel better now."

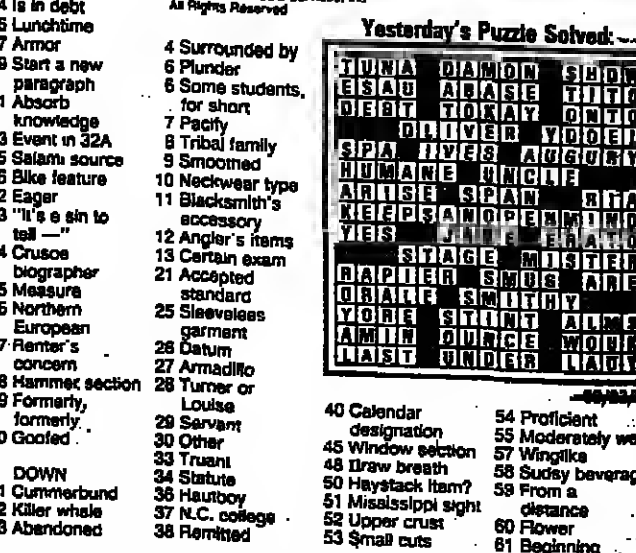
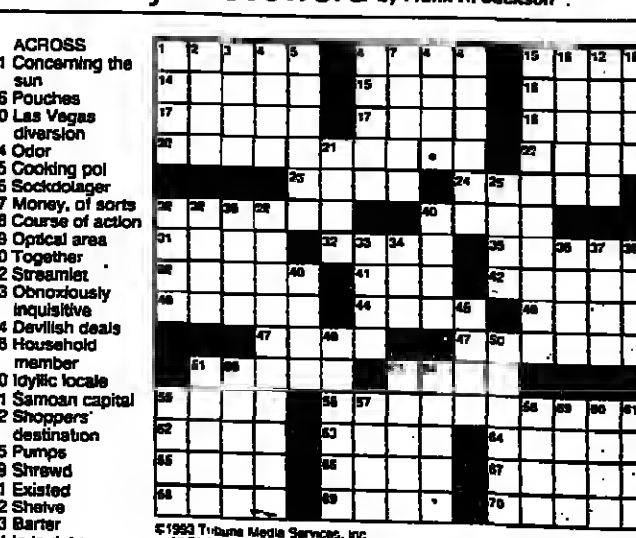
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold



Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: LIGHT NOBLE FIRING CLOVEN Answer: She got behind in her work because of this—HER FLUNG

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson



Bosnian Muslims claim victory over Serb forces at Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Muslim forces claimed a victory over Serbs attacking the mountain that towers over the capital Sarajevo, Muslim-controlled radio reported Wednesday.

It said the Muslim-led Bosnian government forces retook the Golo Brdo part of Mount Igman, a long-held stronghold of the government forces, Tuesday evening and pushed rebel Serbs back towards their valley base of Hadzici.

The Serbs said Tuesday they had taken the steep southwest slope of the mountain, killing nine Muslim soldiers and bringing the rebels closer to taking control of the besieged capital.

The Muslim radio said dozens of Serbs were killed in the fighting. It did not mention Muslim casualties.

Heavy artillery could be heard constantly overnight in the Mount Igman area, southwest of Sarajevo, until daybreak on Wednesday when the noise subsided.

Hours earlier, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic warned U.N. leaders that rebel Serbs were planning an all-out attack on Sarajevo and he urged the United Nations to intervene.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Bosnian Serb army Wednesday said his troops would soon cut off Muslim forces in the battle for the strategic mountain overlooking Sarajevo.

General Ratko Mladic said his soldiers had already "liberated" several villages in the mountains southwest of the Bosnian capital and had pushed their front-line forward by up to 30 kilometres.

"I hope that today, or tomorrow we will have cut off their forces completely, both on Mount Bjelasnica and on Mount Igman," Gen. Mladic said in a front-line interview with Reuters Television.

On the mountain heights, Mladic's men gave the three-fingered Serb salute while houses in the valley below burned.

"Things are moving very well, according to plan, and will be even better," Gen. Mladic said. "The most important thing is that there are no losses."

Gen. Mladic issued a warning to the Muslim defenders of Sarajevo, whose forces are entrenched on Igman.

"Tell them to take good care of the few Serbs that remain (in Sarajevo), so that they survive. The path of Allah is controlled by my army," Gen. Mladic said.

The U.N. has authorised air strikes to protect six Bosnian Muslim enclaves, including Sarajevo, and NATO has said it would be ready for the task by this Thursday.

The United States, while saying it was alarmed by the deteriorating situation in Sarajevo, Tuesday said it planned no new initiative to stop the fighting.

"Clearly the fighting around Sarajevo presents a very difficult situation, something that the United States is deeply troubled by... It's a situation that is quite alarming," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Mr. McCurry reaffirmed the U.S. position that it will only use air cover to help defend U.N. peacekeepers under attack, not

Bosnian civilians.

The Bosnian Serbs and Croats have proposed carving Bosnia into three ethnic regions — a solution the Muslim-led government had vehemently opposed, although Mr. Izetbegovic this week conceded this may be the only way to end the fighting.

Exerting further pressure on Mr. Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, whose forces have seized 70 per cent of the country, said the Muslims insist on waging war, "blind in their belief that the world will intervene on their behalf."

"The Serbs are not at war with the world but with the Muslims," he told Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) Tuesday.

He warned the Muslims they were in a hopeless position and risked being swallowed in a two-way Serb-Croat division of Bosnia if they continue the war.

Meanwhile, fighting raged in central Bosnia, where Muslim positions in Maglaj and Tesanj were under attack.

Serbs also hammered parts of the U.N.-designated safe area of Gorazde Tuesday, killing three people and wounding seven, Bosnian radio said.

Croatian radio reported Wednesday that dozens of people were killed and wounded in the latest central Bosnian flashpoint of Bugojno and Muslim assaults on Novi Travnik and Zavidovici.

It said Croat units regained control over some villages in the Kresovo district and the villages of Bakovici and Gokjovici near Fojnica, where U.N. peacekeepers earlier this week discovered

230 emaciated mental patients abandoned by hospital staff fleeing the fighting.

In Geneva, international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg said Wednesday they had called the leaders of Bosnia's three warring factions to a new — and officially final — round of peace negotiations.

In a letter sent Tuesday to president Izetbegovic and to the leaders of Bosnia's Serbs and Croats, the mediators said the Bosnian conflict had reached a level that "makes us both shudder for the future of your country."

"We therefore invite you to come to Geneva this weekend for negotiations, which we intend should sit in continuous session until a settlement is reached," they said. The letter was released to the media Wednesday.

According to the letter, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and President Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro had all expressed a "readiness" to come to Geneva. Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Milosevic are seen as key players in the Balkan conflict.

The mediators told Mr. Izetbegovic, Serb leader Karadzic and Croat leader Mate Boban they would be telephoning them Wednesday for their reply and to fix a time for the meeting.

Spokesman John Mills, giving the letter to reporters, said the mediators had not yet received those replies.

Two more children have died in the mental institution, U.N. officials said Wednesday.



Trailers at a mobile home park are submerged in the muddy waters of the flooding Missouri River near St. Charles, Missouri (AFP photo)

New flood misery hits St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (R) — A fresh thunderstorm hit St. Louis Tuesday night, pouring more water into swollen rivers and streams, after a mile-long levee gave way flooding the city's southern suburbs.

The crest of the Mississippi's floodwaters swept southwards, threatening towns downstream in Illinois and Missouri.

The National Weather Service issued flood warnings after the latest storm dumped between one inch and two inches (2.5 cm and five cm) of rain on four counties.

In southern St. Louis, a six-block area of houses was evacuated before the River Des Peres overflowed its levee.

"The levee was breached in about three or four spots," said police officer Donald Glenn. "But they were able to plug them and it's calm right now."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said a second record-breaking flood crest reached the St. Louis area Tuesday evening, measuring 47.1 feet, (14.4 metres) compared with the previous high Monday of 46.9 feet (14.3 metres).

The waters, which were abating slightly, were expected to remain above flood levels until late August.

The Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City said Tuesday damage in the St. Louis area was approaching \$1 billion, "a figure that we consider conservative." Floodwaters forced the closure of a bridge in Chester on the

Illinois bank of the Mississippi, the only link between St. Louis and the town of Cape Girardeau 160 kilometres to the south.

In St. Charles, north of St. Louis, where a vast lake has formed at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri, officials could only wait anxiously.

"Right now we're all just kind of watching the levels. Most of the sandbagging has stopped because there's not much more that can break," said Petra Haws of the St. Charles County Emergency Management Agency.

Valleys and farmland have been under water for nearly a month and a half in nine heartland states, killing as many as 31 people, covering 16,000 square miles (41,440 sq km) of fields and forcing at least 30,000 people to leave their homes.

Overall damage is estimated at \$10 billion.

In Washington, a House of Representatives committee approved \$3 billion in emergency aid for the flood zone Tuesday and some members said Congress might have to double or triple that eventually.

Heavy rain Tuesday spread flooding to parts of Kansas where evacuations were under way along the Kansas River.

Officials in Leavenworth County north of Kansas City warned residents that the volume of water pouring from two reservoirs farther west in the state would cause further flooding.

Couple kept baby's body in bag for over three years

TOKYO (AFP) — Police arrested a Japanese couple who had been carrying the body of their three-month-old daughter around in a bag for three-and-a-half years, Osaka authorities said Tuesday. Yasuniko Kai and his former wife Yoko Ogawa, both 29, were arrested Monday on suspicion of drowning the infant in a bathtub in February 1990. The couple cemented the body of the baby in plaster and carried it around in a bag as they hopped from one hotel to another in the western commercial and industrial city of Osaka. Authorities said. Police are also investigating the death of the couple's two-year-old son.

Right knee was wrong one for doctor

OSLO (AP) — When the operation was over, 76-year-old Othar Olsen's bad left knee had been repaired. So had his good right knee. The surgeon operated on the wrong knee. Finding nothing amiss with the joint, he recognised his mistake and operated on the other knee. The Oslo newspaper Verdens Gang reported. Mr. Olsen was pictured in the newspaper at Vest Agder Hospital in south Norway with both knees bandaged. He said the doctor apologised and accepted blame for the error. "I feel sorry for him," said Mr. Olsen. Verdens Gang said Mr. Olsen referred the matter to the hospital's patients complaint office. The report said nothing about the possibility of Mr. Olsen filing a lawsuit over the mistake.

Clinton praises latest Eastwood film

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has praised Clint Eastwood's latest movie, in which the hard-boiled actor portrays a secret service agent who goes after a would-be presidential assassin. Mr. Clinton said on CNN's "Larry King Live" programme that he had watched the movie, *In the Line of Fire*. Monday night and gave it a good review. "I thought Eastwood was terrific. I thought he was good in *The Untouchables*. I think he was good in this," Mr. Clinton said. "I think he's making the best movies of his career," the president added. "I liked the movie very much." Asked if it was realistic, Mr. Clinton said, "I think it was as realistic as it could be and still be a real rip-roaring thriller."

Comics will be teaching medium of future

WELLINGTON (AFP) — Comics will be the teaching medium of the future, American literature expert Thomas Inge said here Wednesday. Comics are teaching children to read and can lead to bigger things. Inge, a literary professor at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia, said. Comics are serious literature as they are "accessible to everyone, all socioeconomic levels, and often teach children values and concepts," he said. "There would not be many kids who did not grow up with comics. It forms a huge part of the reading material they pick up." Comics are gaining acceptance as a form of education combining information with a visual aid, he said. "Comics are involved in every part of life — war, romance, pornography, adventure. They comment on and reflect the culture we live in," Inge said.

Jury awards \$195m to accident victims

NEW YORK (AP) A jury awarded more than \$195 million to five passengers injured or killed when their rented station wagon, which did not have seat belts, hit a disabled tractor-trailer. It was the largest award in New York state history in a personal injury case, said Harvey Weitz, the lead lawyer for the plaintiffs. All the victims were natives of Sri Lanka. The 1987 accident on the New Jersey Turnpike killed one man, left another man brain damaged and his wife quadriplegic, and injured two other women. Mr. Weitz said. The surviving passengers and the estate of the dead man had sued Budget Rent-A-Car of Delaware and the truck's owner, T.N.T. Pilot Inc. of Virginia. The jury reached its verdict after a six-week trial in Queens Supreme Court. Mr. Weitz said he expects the defence to appeal. The nine occupants of the station wagon, who lived in the Borough of Queens and were natives of Sri Lanka, were returning from a daylong sightseeing trip to Washington, D.C. They had rented a mini-van in the New York area, but it broke down in Delaware, and they rented the car there. The car struck the tractor-trailer, which had broken down in the express lane during an evening rainstorm. The jury found driver was negligent in leaving the stalled vehicle in the express lane for more than three hours without properly warning motorists.

Tajik rebels attack border post

MOSCOW (R) — Rebels operating from Afghanistan shelled a border post in Tajikistan overnight, injuring at least two Russian soldiers, the commander of Russian troops in the former Soviet republic said Wednesday.

Anatoly Chechulin told local journalists that the rebels, who fled to Afghanistan last year after being defeated in a near civil war, had shelled the southern 10th border post.

The two injured men were serving with the Russian 201st Motorised Infantry Division, which has been pressed into action to help border guards and Tajik troops deal with the rebels.

Moscow reacted swiftly after a major rebel attack last week which killed 25 Border Guards, sending in troops reinforcements to the Central Asian republic and setting up a new command structure to help counter the attacks.

Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency reported serious clashes in the area and said the situation at a string of border posts along the mountainous frontier was "extremely serious."

Lieutenant-Colonel Vasily Matyuk, Border Guard commander in Tajikistan's southern Moskovsky District, told TASS that most border garrisons only had two-thirds of the men they needed.

He did not exclude the possibility that the rebels, whom he said were armed with a large amount of armoured vehicles and modern foreign weapons, would soon launch a major attack across the border.

A top aide to Russia's security minister said Tuesday that the Border Guards should be allowed to launch raids into Afghan territory to prevent further attacks.

Tajik authorities say last week's raid was part of a general build-up by Islamic opposition for a major assault to regain power after its defeat last year.

Russian border troops commanders said Wednesday that since the start of the year the rebels had launched more than 100 attacks on border posts.

Troops had killed 400 people trying to cross the border and captured 300 more, for a loss of 31 Guards killed and 41 wounded.

The harsh comments by Vladimir Bondarenko, the chief of staff of Russia's Security Ministry, marked an escalation in Russian rhetoric amid plans for Russia's biggest military action in the region since the 1979-89 Afghan War.

However, Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Kustovsky later declined to assert such a right and said: "One has to wait and see how things develop."

Russia and other former Soviet republics, including neighbouring Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, are helping Tajikistan's pro-Communist regime guard its border with Afghanistan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thai king pardons 2 British women

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Two young British women who had spent three years in prison on heroin smuggling charges were freed Wednesday evening after being pardoned by the king of Thailand. Patricia Cahill, 20, and Karyn Joanne Smith, 21, hugged two officials of the British embassy, waved to reporters, then passed the prison gates to board a van. Their destination was not known. It was expected they would undergo immigration procedures before leaving the country. The Foreign Ministry said that if the usual process were followed, they would leave by early next week. "I feel great," Smith told reporters while she was still behind the first prison gate. Asked how she was treated in prison, Cahill said, "wonderful." Guarded against the crush of reporters by prison guards, the women did not say anything more as they left the Lardysao Women's Prison.

Clinton's No. 2 legal counsel dies

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White House attorney who was President Bill Clinton's friend for more than 40 years was found dead in a park overlooking the Potomac River from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound. Vincent Foster Jr., 48, the father of three, was the No. 2 attorney in the White House Counsel's office. His body was found Tuesday evening in a Virginia suburb of Washington at Fort Marcy, a civil war-era fort preserved as a park. Park Service investigators said the death was an apparent suicide. Police declined to say whether they found a note. Stunned White House officials said they were unaware of anything that would have caused Mr. Foster to take his own life. A native of the president's hometown of Hope, Ark., Mr. Foster was a former law partner with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in a Little Rock firm. The president went to Mr. Foster's home Tuesday night to visit with his widow, Lisa, and children. His wife and daughter Chelsea were in Little Rock at the time.

9 killed in S. Africa violence

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — At least nine blacks were killed and dozens of shacks torched in a new burst of faction fighting outside Johannesburg, police said Wednesday. Zulu residents were targeted in at least one of the overnight attacks in Tokozza, Katleong and Daveyton, perennially troubled black areas southeast of Johannesburg. Many Zulus in these townships, but not all, support the Inkatha Freedom Party, which is locked in a vicious power struggle with the African National Congress, the country's largest black group. In the worst attack, seven blacks were shot, hacked or knifed to death just outside a Zulu-dominated workers' hostel in Daveyton, police said. It was not immediately clear whether the victims lived in the hostel. In another part of Daveyton, two people were killed and 16 shacks were damaged when assailants went on a rampage that targeted Zulus, police said. In a separate incident in Daveyton, a policeman was shot and seriously wounded.

Armenians seized Agdam outskirts

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan said Karabakh Armenian forces launched a major attack on the crucial western town of Agdam Wednesday and had seized the southern outskirts. Interfax News Agency reported. The Armenian forces, which struck from the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, were involved in heavy fighting around the southwest edge of the town. Interfax quoted the Azeri Defence Ministry as saying.

KGB reveals mass graves

BUTOVO, Russia (AP) — This hamlet on the southern fringe of Moscow looks deceptively gentle, all soft muddy lanes, green forests and strolling pensioners. But there are those who remember when Butovo's roads rumbled with prison trucks and the air rang with rifle volleys. The Russian Security Ministry — the successor to the KGB — went public this month with Butovo's secret: A military firing range in town was really a killing field where 22,000 to 28,000 political prisoners were shot in 1937 and 1938 in Josef Stalin's terror. The victims are buried in mass graves in the 4-acre (1.5-hectare) site, now an apple orchard and forest. They were teachers, artists, engineers, farm workers and others who ran afoul of the Communist dictator. A few thousand were foreigners, including nine Americans. "When I first began investigating this, it was very difficult for me, very difficult, and it still gives me shivers," said Lt. Col. Mikhail Kirilkin, a 40-year-old, chain-smoking Security Ministry officer who was assigned to find the graves bidden by his predecessors. About 16,000 more bodies are buried at the nearby Kommunarka State Farm, the ministry announced. Most were employees of the KGB's forerunner, the NKVD, which began devouring its own as the terror grew.

Cambodia rebels destroy part of bridge

BANGKOK (AP) — Guerrillas blasted a hole in an important bridge in Cambodia, preventing the United Nations from delivering rice to the country Wednesday and constricting the route to Thailand.

Thai soldiers reported that about 70 guerrillas attacked the bridge, a few kilometres west of Sisophon, a key crossroads town near the Thai border, said Thai Foreign Ministry official Ajai Dittain. They struck shortly after midnight Tuesday.

Aajin, who visited the area, said troops of the U.N. peacekeeping operation were trying Wednesday to clear land mines the attackers planted under the bridge. It appeared it would be a few days before they could repair the huge hole on the bridge's surface.

The damage prevented passage by heavy trucks, and a U.N. World Food Programme convoy that drove in from Thailand had to turn back Wednesday, said a Western relief official, who demanded anonymity. The bridge is vital for commerce and other reasons because it connects the Thai border with central and eastern Cambodia.

The official had said earlier that another key bridge also had been damaged, but later said he had received a false report.

N. Korea hails end of one-party rule in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Stalinist North Korea, where all political dissent is ruthlessly suppressed, Wednesday hailed the end of one-party rule in Japan.

"The defeat of the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) in the general elections and the end of the one-party rule are an inevitable development resulting from its anti-popular and corrupt policy," said the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"Not without reason do world media predict that, with the defeat of the LDP... and the split of the party, (Kiichi) Miyazawa finds it difficult to retain the post of the prime minister and the political situation of Japan will become unstable," KCNA said approvingly.

The agency, monitored in Tokyo, went on to attribute part of Mr. Miyazawa's woes following Sunday's election, in which the long-governing LDP failed to gain a parliamentary majority, to what it called his hostile policies towards Pyongyang.

Rejoicing at Miyazawa's discomfiture, the agency concluded Wednesday:

"The LDP rulers of Japan must clearly know what doom awaits a regime which has become internally a target of denunciation by the people for its corrupt policy and externally resorts to a hostile policy toward other countries." Meanwhile LDP leaders and

CATANIA

Sicilian magistrates Tuesday asked parliament to lift the immunity of former Defence Minister Salvo Ando so he could be investigated on corruption charges.

The ANSA and AGI news agencies said Mr. Ando, a Socialist, was one of three parliamentarians named in a probe into alleged bribes over the building of schools in the Catania region of Sicily.

The other two parliamentarians named in the probe were Salvatore Grillo, formerly of the Republican Party, and Rino Nicolosi, a Christian Democrat, all three are from Catania.

The reports said the probe was over alleged bribes connected to the building of 19 schools in the Catania area.

Meanwhile Italy's Justice Ministry began an inquiry

Wednesday into magistrates who investigated Gabriele Cagliari, the industrialist whose apparent prison suicide set off a storm over the conduct of a nationwide anti-graft probe.

The ministry's chief inspector, Ugo Dinacci, will consider whether the Milan magistrates involved in the case had abused their discretionary powers, including the right to imprison suspects, a ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Cagliari, former head of energy giant ENI, asked five times to be held under house arrest, but his requests were denied.

He had spent more than four months in Milan's grim San Vittore Prison, where he was found dead in his cell Tuesday with a plastic bag tied around his neck with a shoelace.

His death, the first of a suspect in prison in the 17-month-old

"tangentopoli" (bribeville) scandal, prompted calls for an urgent review of magistrates' use of preventive custody — imprisoning subjects to ensure that evidence is not destroyed or tampered with.

An autopsy was due to be performed on Cagliari Wednesday but it was not clear when the results would be made public.

In a suicide note, Cagliari branded investigators in Italy's anti-corruption probe as psychological torturers.

"They treat us like non-persons, like dogs that are chased back into the kennel," he wrote in a letter to his wife.

The chilling letter was published in full by the newspaper *Il Giorno*, which is owned by ENI. It said Mr. Cagliari, who was 67, has written the note on July 3 with instructions that it should not be opened until after his "return" from jail.

Former minister named in Italy probe

than 90 like-minded lawmakers could break away and set up a new party.

A small five-member LDP group has already said openly that if the new leadership is not fully committed to political reform, it will break away.

Party dissidents voting with the opposition brought down Mr. Miyazawa in a non-confidence vote in June after he reneged on promises of political reform.

Around 50 lawmakers defected after that vote, forming two new parties which between them won 68 seats Sunday.

Along with a further 35 new members of the anti-graft Japan New Party, set up earlier by an LDP rebel, there are more than 100 in the new lower house elected on a reform ticket.

The LDP needs to lure back some of these defectors to be able to form a viable coalition government.

In case anyone forgets why the LDP had been brought so low, Thursday will provide a timely reminder with the opening of the trial of the party's former master fund-raiser and powerbroker, 78-year-old Shin Kanemaru.

He will appear in Tokyo District Court to answer charges of evading tax of one billion yen (\$9.2 million) on money which prosecutors allege he took from construction firms in exchange for help in winning public works contracts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Anand storms to chess lead

BIENNE, Switzerland (AP) — India's Viswanathan Anand, recovering from a slow start, has stormed into a five-way tie for the lead as the Bienne International Grandmasters Chess Tournament entered the sixth round Wednesday. Also in the lead, with four points each, were Evgeny Barceev and Valery Salov of Russia, Mikhail Gurevich of Belgium and dark horse Paul Van Der Sterren of the Netherlands. Anand, ranked second in the world and the top-rated player at Bienne, handily beat Alexander Khalifman in the fifth round, knocking the Russian out of first place. Barceev drew with Gurevich, Salov beat his countryman Evgeny Pigusov, and Van Der Sterren defeated Dilyendu Barua of India. Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland, at 62 the oldest player in the tournament, played to a draw with Jonathan Speelman of Britain. Both Korchnoi and Speelman stood with Khalifman and Gata Kamsky of the United States with 3.5 points just behind the leaders. Kamsky drew with Boris Gelfand of Belarus. Judit Polgar of Hungary, the youngest player and only female in the tournament, was in the middle of the pack at 2.5 points after defeating Ferdinand Hellers of Sweden.

Olympic soccer-site finalists named

ATLANTA (R) — The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has named six U.S. cities as potential sites for preliminary matches in the Olympic soccer competition in 1996. The committee said the finalists were: Birmingham, Alabama, Boston, Dallas, Miami, Orlando, Florida, and Washington. They were chosen from a total of 14 proposed sites. Next month the cities will be visited by Atlanta Committee staff and officials from FIFA and USA Soccer. Up to four sites are expected to be selected to stage preliminary matches. Each city chosen will host four to eight Olympic teams and between eight and 16 during the 1996 centennial Olympic Games, Atlanta Committee officials said.

Motorola will sponsor team

SCHAUMBURG, Illinois (R) — Motorola Inc., lead sponsor of a U.S.-based cycling team with two riders in the top 10 in the Tour de France, reversed itself and said Tuesday it will extend its sponsorship through next year. Motorola said it was a multimillion-dollar deal but declined to give exact figures. Spokeswoman Carrie Worley said in a statement that Motorola had reevaluated its decision announced last March not to renew its three-year sponsorship at the end of the current season in December. Motorola had said it was pulling out in order to pursue other international marketing projects. But the U.S.-based worldwide communications and electronics company will now continue its deal through December 1994 with an option then to renew. Motorola rider Alvaro Mejia of Colombia is currently second in the Tour de France, behind leader Miguel Indurain of Spain. Mejia's teammate Andy Hampsten of the United States is in sixth position. Motorola, which has 18 professionals and one amateur on its roster, is the only American team in the Tour de France.

Fernandez has easy time at Mahwah

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Top seed Mary Joe Fernandez had an easy time in her first match of the \$150,000 Pathmark Women's Tennis Classic, scoring a straight-sets victory over Heidi Sprung of Austria. Fernandez, who had a first-round bye, held serve easily in the second-round match, facing only one break point in disposing of Sprung 6-0 6-2 in 76 minutes. The 21-year-old from Miami, ranked seventh in the world and runner-up to Steffi Graf at the French Open seven weeks ago, was the first player to reach the quarterfinals here. "It was hard hitting winners on the slow court, but the victory was satisfying," said Fernandez, who started the hardcourt season with this outing. Earlier in the day, Sprung won a first-round match against American Donna Faber 6-4 6-4. In the day's only upset, unseeded Camille Benjamin, a semifinalist at the 1984 French Open who is currently ranked number 274 in the world, surprised seventh-seeded Australian Louise Field 6-4 6-4.

Gordon will drive Allison's car

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — IndyCar racer Robby Gordon will drive the late Davey Allison's No. 28 Ford Thunderbird in Sunday's Diehard 500 NASCAR race at Talladega, Ala. Allison's racing team announced. Gordon, 24, was given a one-race deal Tuesday to drive for Robert Yates Racing, which owns Allison's car. "I'm not replacing him," Gordon said. "It just happens that I have an off weekend and I'll do the best I can. Davey was one of my favorite NASCAR drivers." Scheduling conflicts prevent Gordon, who is currently eighth in points in the IndyCar circuit, from running in all the remaining Winston Cup races this season. "I'm excited that they're taking a chance with me," Gordon said. "I know it's a big risk."



Tour de France cycling race overall leader Miguel Indurain (right) plays billiards with his teammate Pedro Delgado on their rest day Tuesday (AFP photo)

Jaskula wins 16th stage of Tour de France

SAINT LARY SOULAN, France (R) — Zdenek Jaskula of Poland won the 16th stage of the Tour de France cycle race over 230.5 kms from Andorra Wednesday. Swiss Tony Rominger was second and Spaniard Miguel Indurain was third. Indurain retained the race leader's yellow jersey. Indurain reckoned his biggest rival Tony Rominger had to carry out an abrupt change in tactics to stop him winning in Paris this weekend. "If I was in Rominger's place and I had to beat Indurain, I would quickly change tactics," said the Banesto team star. "Rominger's breakaway attempts in the mountain have all failed for the moment. Perhaps he should have tried a few more things during the first week."

Carl Lewis looks forward to showdown with Christie

HOUSTON (R) — World 100 metres record holder Carl Lewis said he would use a July 30 showdown with Olympic champion Linford Christie at Gateshead, England, as a stepping stone towards a double sprint victory at next month's World Championships. "I'd like to run well at Gateshead, run better at Zurich and at least as well in Monte Carlo because that would set me up for the World Championships," Lewis told Reuters in a telephone interview Tuesday. Lewis said that after the Christie race he would run 100 metres and a 4x100-metre relay at Zurich on Aug. 4 and 200 metres at Monte Carlo on Aug. 7 before the world.

Lewis for the first time will be seeking victories in both the 100 and 200 metres at the World Championships, which begin on Aug. 14 in Stuttgart. He previously has concentrated on the 100 metres and long jump at the championships. Lewis said he was looking forward to racing against Christie but was disappointed it had taken so long to arrange. "I think it's good for the sport that we are able to compete," Lewis said about their duel at an invitation athletics meeting in Gateshead near Newcastle. "(But) there is no reason to have gone this long. "I guess he caved in to the pressure. A British newspaper report said each runner would be paid £100,000 (\$150,000) each. The clash will be the first meeting between the pair since the 1991 Tokyo World Championships.

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Top Marseille official meets accusers in bribery showdown

VALENCIENNES, France (R) — Marseille General Secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes met his accusers Wednesday in a courthouse showdown that could determine whether the European Cup holders are banned from next season's competition.

Bernes, in custody for two weeks on suspicion of bribing Valenciennes players to lose a May 20 league match, arrived in a police car at the investigating judge's chambers, shielded from photographers who were kept at a distance by crash barriers.

Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie, who has said he handed over the 250,000 franc (\$44,000) bribe on Bernes' orders, attended the confrontation along with Valenciennes players Jorge Burruchaga, Jacques Glassmann and Christophe Robert, and Robert's wife, who picked up the money.

Robert and Burruchaga have admitted accepting the money

and named Bernes as the initiator of the deal. Glassmann, who was present with them and says Bernes telephoned him, blew the whistle on the deal by informing the match referee at halftime.

Despite the weight of evidence, Bernes, right-hand man to outspoken Marseille Chairman Bernard Tapie, has doggedly denied any involvement in the scam and aides described him as "utterly determined" on the eve of the confrontation.

He is regarded as Marseille's last line of defence. If he cracks, the club seems bound to face severe disciplinary action, including possible demotion from the French first division next season as well as exclusion from the European Cup.

The showdown took place in the chambers of investigating Magistrate Bernard Befly, besieged by journalists.

Befly has accumulated confessions and evidence, including re-

cords of telephone calls from Bernes hotel room to the hotel where the Valenciennes team was staying.

The secretary general of FIFA, world soccer's governing body, denied Wednesday having threatened Marseille with an immediate international ban if Bernes was found to be involved.

Sepp Blatter told the Marseille daily Le Provençal it would be up to the French soccer authorities to take disciplinary action first.

"The possible suspension of Marseille from the European Cup does not depend on us. We suspend a club only if it is suspended by its own federation," Blatter was quoted as saying.

"FIFA cannot act against a club. It is just a supervisor, an overseer of world soccer which has to keep an eye on everything that happens."

"For the moment, Marseille can be reassured about their future... FIFA will not put the cart

before the horse." Asked about reports he had criticised the French Football Federation (FFF) for acting too slowly on the Marseille affair, Blatter told Le Provençal: "I simply said the Polish federation had acted faster."

The European Football Union (UEFA) decided to keep Marseille in the draw for next season's cup but has given the FFF until Aug. 30 to nominate another club if the champions are found guilty of cheating.

With the new French season opening Friday, soccer league President Noel Le Graet appealed to clubs in a circular to make an effort to restore the image of the sport.

"In the particularly difficult context with negative fallout for professional soccer, we have to rise to the challenge by mobilising our energy to make the best possible start to our championship," Le Graet wrote.

Life is not so sweet for Vitaly Scherbo

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Life should be sweet for Vitaly Scherbo. He won six gold medals in the Barcelona Olympics. His homeland of Belarus is finally independent of the former Soviet Union.

And he has a loving wife and infant daughter at home. Yet the 21-year-old gymnast sighs more than he smiles these days.

"Another side of this coin is a hard life," he said. "All the time traveling. I have a wife and daughter, it's very hard to take care of them."

Scherbo has maintained an exhausting pace since his Olympic domination nearly a year ago. And he's got lots of medals to prove it.

He's coming off a gold medal in the all-around in the World Uni-

versity Games in Buffalo, N.Y., last week. He also won gold on the vault, silver on the parallel bars and bronze on the high bar.

He won four medals, including the all-around gold, in the World Championships in April. He was the all-around champion in the American Cup in March.

In the past three years, Scherbo has finished no worse than third in the all-around portion of every international competition he's entered.

"I spend time with the baby or traveling to exhibitions or some little competition and had no time to do my routines with the new tricks," he said.

Adding to his frustration in Scherbo's lack of a coach in the United States. He receives some help from former teammate Vla-

dimir Novikov, an assistant coach at Penn State.

But mostly he's on his own. "It's very hard," he said.

Scherbo and Shannon Miller, who won five medals in Barcelona, headline the Milton Challenge Exhibition at the Sports Arena.

It's the first time teams from the United States, Belarus and Ukraine are competing against each other in gymnastics since the formation of the new independent states.

Scherbo dislikes the international travel because it takes him away from his family. He smiles at the memory of a brief vacation with his wife in Miami Beach.

"We had three days before an exhibition — no training, just have fun. No reports, no T.V. sleep on the beach all day, water skiing, drink beer, whatever you want," he said.

Even when he's not on the road, Scherbo can't get away from the sport. He's staying temporarily at a gymnastics camp in Woodward, Pa. He and his wife, Irina, and daughter, Kristina, 4½ months, are living with camp owners Ed and Barbara Isabelle.

"I know only gymnastics in my life and I can do only gymnastics, nothing else," he said.

Kristina was born in the United States while Scherbo was competing in the American Cup.

Scherbo would never encourage his daughter to pursue gymnastics because it's "enough to have one gymnast in the family."

Like most American parents, Scherbo is torn between a job —

in his case, being the world's best male gymnast — and parental responsibilities.

"When I go into exhibitions and competition my wife stays with the baby. When I come home I want to help her," he said.

Scherbo eventually wants to settle his family somewhere permanently and become a coach. That won't happen before the 1996 Olympics, however.

"I have every title and I have only just one dream, little dream — to take more Olympic gold medals," he said.

"Just two to add to my six golds. Just to make some gymnastics record."

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GOREN BRIDGE

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THE IMPETUOUSNESS OF THE YOUNG

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ 10 6 5
♥ A 7 4
♦ 9 6 5
♣ A Q
WEST
♠ A 7 2
♥ 10 5 8
♦ 8 2
♣ K J 8 7 2
EAST
♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ Q K 8
♦ 4
♣ 10 6 5 4 3
SOUTH
♠ K 4
♥ A Q J 10 7 3
♦ 9
♣ 9
The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 ♥ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠ Vicky Sawyer (17), of Occoquan, Va., and Chris Austin (14), of Riverdale, Ga., won the Junior Pairs at the recent Summer North American Bridge Championships in Toronto. This is one of the new events that the American Contract Bridge League has created to rejuvenate an interest in bridge among young players.

When that worked, declarer could almost claim. The ace of spades lead made it a moral certainty that East held the queen, so declarer cashed the ace of clubs for a heart discard and then led the jack of spades from the table. When East did not cover, declarer discarded a heart and all was well!

TODAY

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The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlam Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

Donors spend more on military than aid in Somalia - U.N.

Combined agency despatches

UNITED NATIONS relief Supremo Jan Eliasson complained Wednesday that U.N. members were spending, at least 10 times as much on their military operation in Somalia as they were on aid.

In a rare criticism of the U.N. operation by a high-ranking U.N. official, Mr. Eliasson warned that the original aim of sending troops to Somalia — to protect aid — risked being forgotten.

Mr. Eliasson, U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told officials in Geneva that donor nations had given less than 15 per cent of the \$166 million needed for relief and rehabilitation in Somalia this year.

"As a comparison, approximately \$1.5 billion will be spent on military operations in Somalia over a period of 12 months," Mr. Eliasson told the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

"In other words, due to the security needs, the international community is spending 10 on military protection for every dollar of voluntary humanitarian assistance in Somalia, even if the 1993 relief and rehabilitation programmes were to be fully funded."

Mr. Eliasson added: "Unless sufficient funds are provided for rehabilitation activities, there is a risk that the military operation can be perceived as an end in itself, rather than as a means of ensuring security for rehabilitating the country's infrastructure and forging reconciliation."

Mr. Eliasson's criticism came at the height of a fierce diplomatic row over the role of U.N. peacekeepers in Somalia.

Italy, which fields the third-largest contingent in the U.N. peacekeeping force, has complained of a lack of consultation by the U.N. with those countries providing troops.

Officials in Rome have also protested that regular U.S. bombing raids on command posts belonging to fugitive warlord General Mohammed Farah Aided have aggravated the conflict.

Mr. Eliasson's criticism is not the first by U.N. officials of the world body's operation in the Horn of Africa country.

Last October, two months before U.S. Marines led the first U.N. peacekeepers into Mogadishu, U.N. special envoy Mohammad Sahnoun was forced to resign after accusing the U.N. of having sat back and watched "Somalia descend into this hell."

Mr. Eliasson praised the December peacekeeping operation, dubbed "Restore Hope," by the Americans, which he said had

allowed relief workers to deliver supplies across a country where U.N. officials said an estimated 300,000 people had already died.

Germans deployed

German soldiers flew to Somalia Wednesday to join a U.N. peacekeeping mission that opposition politicians fear is becoming a combat operation.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet said Tuesday it would stand by its commitment to the United Nations, saying to do otherwise would badly damage Germany's image as a reliable partner in global affairs.

U.N. officials, fearing that the Germans may become prime targets for Somali gunmen because they can only return fire in self-defence, have decided to deploy them out of harm's way.

Defence Minister Volker Ruebe bade farewell before dawn Wednesday to 250 soldiers and said he would visit them soon in Belet Huen, some 300 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, the Somali capital.

The troops landed at Mogadishu, where gunmen have attacked the 13,000-strong U.N. force. They were to travel by land to Belet Huen. More troops will follow in coming weeks to bring the force up to full strength of 1,700 in the first overseas deployment of the German military since World War II.

Two Zimbabwean soldiers serving with the U.N. operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) were wounded by Somali snipers in Mogadishu Wednesday, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

It quoted UNOSOM sources in the Somali capital as saying the ambush took place near the operation's fortified headquarters in the former U.S. embassy compound. It did not say whether the soldiers had been seriously injured.

On Tuesday, snipers wounded two American soldiers in Mogadishu.

Tuesday's attack occurred while U.S. soldiers escorted an American, privately-owned vehicle doing road work in the city. On Monday, two U.S. army military policemen were slightly wounded by sniper fire.

U.N. forces Tuesday began clearing a no-man's land around their headquarters in southern Mogadishu where gunmen have often sought cover.

Five Somali gunmen shot Tuesday at buildings inside the compound housing U.S. troops. There were no injuries and the gunmen retreated after Tunisian sentries returned the fire, said military spokeswoman Major Leann Swickowski.

Another gunman fled overnight under fire after trying to climb over razor wire lining the central complex.



German soldiers land in Mogadishu Wednesday (AFP photo)

Journalists with political publications lock horns with press association

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Editors and reporters working for political parties newspapers are trying to enlist the help of "official and popular organisations" in a bid to force the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to accredit them as journalists and grant them membership.

"We hope for the intervention of all official and popular organisations... in order to prevent the association from being abused in irresponsible and illegal ways," editors of political parties newspapers said in a joint statement Wednesday.

The editors issued the statement after taking their case to the minister of Information, Ma'an Abu Nowar, whom they quoted as promising to follow up on the matter with the JPA.

"The minister stressed the need for brotherly dialogue with the association, noting that laws should be dealt with in a democratic spirit," the statement quoted Dr. Abu Nowar as saying.

The editors demanded that the association grant them membership and recognise them as journalists in accordance with the political parties and the press and publication laws.

The JPA refuses to acknowledge newsmen working for political parties as journalists because its "law does not recognise their publications as news organisations," JPA President Sulaiman Al Qudah, said Wednesday.

"The JPA law does not recognise political parties' publications as newspapers, and people working for them do not meet the legal requirements for JPA membership,"

Mr. Qudah told the Jordan Times.

The two sides are locked in legal arguments with both claiming that the law is on their side.

The confrontation with political parties newspapers is the second major legal dispute that the JPA has been engaged in since the enactment of the new Press and Publications Law earlier this year.

It has yet to resolve its conflict with non-JPA member journalists who work for local and foreign mainstream news organisations and are not recognised as journalists by the JPA on the basis that the law restricts recognition of journalists to its members.

Editors of political publications say the JPA denies them legal recognition even though the JPA law states that "a news organisation is the person or the legal entity (who/which) issue a publication in the Kingdom." They say political parties are legal entities and their publications are published in the Kingdom.

Mr. Qudah says, however, that the law excludes from recognition publications issued by clubs, unions and "local, international and diplomatic agencies or any other similar agencies." He says the JPA's legal consultant has advised him that political parties fall under that category and should therefore be recognised as news organisations whose members are entitled to join the association.

Editors of political parties newspapers counter this argument by saying that they are not social clubs and the Ministry of Information licensed

their publications as political newspapers.

"The JPA has a weak argument," a lawyer told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. He said political parties do not fall under "local, international, diplomatic or similar agencies," and should therefore be granted recognition as news organisations.

Accordingly, he said, newsmen working in their newspapers should not be excluded from JPA membership on the basis of the JPA argument.

Questioning "the real motives" behind the JPA's refusal to accept their membership, the editors charge the association is "attempting to isolate them from professional and social activities, which negatively affects the political growth" of society.

"We are simply implementing the law," Mr. Qudah said. "There is a legal impediment."

He said the JPA would be willing to accept the membership of editors and reporters working for political parties' publications if an authorised legal body rules in their favour or if the association's law is amended to allow for their membership.

Mr. Qudah, however, criticised the newsmen for not resorting to dialogue with the association before starting to "defame" the JPA in public. "We blame them for that," he said. "They should have talked to us."

The two sides will take up the issue at a meeting at the JPA Thursday, but prospects for resolving the conflict without a legal ruling appear dim as Mr. Qudah insists that the law is on the JPA's side.

"It is a question of legality," he maintained.

Hogg wants Palestinians to accept U.S. paper

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Palestinians should accept an American peace proposal and delay the hard-to-solve Jerusalem issue until the end of the peace talks, a senior British official said Wednesday.

"I think the window is possibly rather a narrow one," Douglas Hogg, minister of state for foreign affairs, said on Israeli radio after meeting with Palestinian negotiators.

"Therefore, I say to the Palestinians, I very much hope they will be able to subscribe to the declaration of principles."

Mr. Hogg, Britain's number two man at the Foreign Office, was finishing a three-day swing through the area.

After meeting Israeli leaders, Mr. Hogg said the status of Jerusalem should be left until Palestinians and Israelis had agreed at 20-month-old peace talks on a plan for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

The issues raised by Jerusalem are extraordinarily difficult and are probably best settled at the end of the process when much progress has been made on other issues," Mr. Hogg told reporters.

Both sides have made an issue of the Holy City which Israel calls its "eternal capital." The Palestinians want East Jerusalem, home to their political and cultural institutions, for their own capital.

Mr. Hogg has met Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian leaders during a four-day trip to Jordan, the occupied territories and Israel apparently designed to keep the parties focused on the U.S. peace

drive.

Mr. Hogg said he had not brought new proposals to the region.

"If people think there was a different approach (being proposed) from the Europeans, they might take their mind off of what the Americans are trying to do, and I think that would be quite unfortunate," Mr. Hogg said.

He welcomed the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian confederation controlling an autonomous area in the occupied territories.

"I think that there is considerable attraction in that approach from the point of view of the Palestinians and... from the point of view of the Israelis," the minister said.

The United States is promoting a declaration of principles for the negotiations that delays discussing Jerusalem until after an interim Palestinian autonomy. It is a way of getting some movement in the stalled U.S.-backed talks.

Israelis have reluctantly accepted the document, preferring that the issue of Jerusalem remains left out altogether.

But the Palestinians have not yet accepted the proposed agenda, saying that the issue of possible Arab sovereignty over the city's eastern sector should be addressed now.

It was Mr. Hogg's third visit to Israel. He met with his Israeli counterpart, Yossi Beilin, and with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as well.

Morocco's Sahara team refused to discuss vote

RABAT (R) — Morocco's delegation to failed talks on the Western Sahara said on Wednesday it had resolutely refused to discuss with Polisario guerrilla a long-promised referendum on the territory's future.

The talks, held in Laayoun, the disputed territory's main town, were the first direct meeting between the two sides. They broke up Monday after three days of jockeying for position over preliminary issues.

The main point which U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had asked the two sides to settle — who would vote to decide between Moroccan rule and an independent state — was not even discussed.

But Mohammad Sheikh Biadillah, head of the Moroccan team, said in a statement carried by the official news agency MAP Wednesday that the talks were not about the referendum, which both sides agreed to in principle five years ago.

"It was excluded that we examine the modalities of implementing the self-determination referendum, which remains the sole competence of the United Nations secretary

general," he said.

"Of course this was not always the view of our Saharan brothers in the Polisario, but we remained intransigent," said Mr. Biadillah, who is a native of Western Sahara and governor of the Moroccan city of Sale.

Dr. Ghali had said in a message to the two sides that the aim of the Laayoun meeting was to "break the deadlock over the interpretation of the criteria for voter eligibility" — the question which has been blocking a referendum since a ceasefire took effect almost two years ago.

Mr. Biadillah said his delegation explained that "the Moroccan character of the Sahara could not be bargained over... it was up to them (the Polisario) to see what was the best and most honourable way for them to return to the motherland."

Diplomats said the implication was that the Polisario was being invited to simply join Morocco and abandon any hope of creating an independent state in the former Spanish colony.

Some local autonomy was apparently the most the Moroccan delegation would consider offering.

COLUMN 8

Report: Pope performed 'exorcism' in 1982

ROME (AP) — Pope John Paul II performed an exorcism in 1982 on an Italian woman, healing her with the promise of a mass. The account was included in the memoirs of Cardinal Jacques Martin, who served as the Vatican's prefect of the pontifical household, a post similar to master of ceremony. Cardinal Martin died in 1992. Italian news reports quoted from the book, *My Six Popes*, published in France. The Vatican corroborated the account of the exorcism. The woman, identified as Francesca F., was "rolling on the floor, shouting. From outside, we heard her cries. The Pope began to pray, pronouncing various (words of) exorcism, but in vain," the account went. "When, at the end, (the Pope) said to the woman, 'tomorrow I'll say mass for you,' suddenly Francesca F. became normal again and she apologised to the Pope." Bishops are allowed to perform exorcisms, a religious ritual to drive out the devil. John Paul, as Pope, also served as Bishop of Rome. The Italian News Agency (ANSA) said the cardinal recalled that a year later, the woman and her husband had an audience with the Pope. The woman was about to have a baby, and was "perfectly healed," the cardinal wrote.

Kravchuk objects to new Ukrainian army uniform

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's fledgling army showed off its slick new uniforms, but President Leonid Kravchuk objected to some of its symbols, saying they could be misinterpreted as indicating military bad power. Mr. Kravchuk approved the new grey-green uniform, a radical departure from the longstanding Soviet style, but told Defence Minister Kostantyn Morozov to remove the traditional cross symbol of a mace on the epaulettes. "The armed forces have no power. They have strength and defend power," Mr. Kravchuk said at the ceremony attended by journalists. "There can be no symbols of power on the uniform." The mace was one of several changes intended to reflect Ukrainian traditions on uniforms of the armed forces — considered one of the most visible symbols of statehood. Stars used heavily in Soviet uniforms have been replaced in part by the Ukrainian trident. Oak leaves have given way to the leaves of the snowball tree. The traditional stiff Soviet hat is replaced by a softer version used by troops who defended a short-lived Ukrainian People's Republic in 1917 — long reviled under Soviet rule. But style had to take second place to the constraints of the ailing Ukrainian economy — servicemen are to use the same uniforms for ceremonial and day-to-day use. "Given the economic situation, this is the most acceptable way," he told Kravchuk. "We shall see about changes later."

Tito's former Rolls to be auctioned

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav army plans to sell a Rolls-Royce that belonged to Josip Broz Tito and was said to have been a gift from Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Belgrade newspapers reported. The 1960-built Phantom Five, with seating for seven and a bar, is being auctioned off by the army along with four Mercedes that also belonged to the Yugoslav Communist leader, who ruled for 35 years until his death in 1980. The opening price for the Rolls was put at 1.4 million German marks (\$820,000), one newspaper reported. It quoted one wag as saying the car's buyer would need a Mercedes to carry the cash. Under Yugoslavia's staggering inflation fuelled by civil war sanctions, the black market rate has soared to nine million dinars for one mark. The Rolls would therefore cost more than 12 billion dinars.

Atlanta stadium catches fire

ATLANTA (R) — Fire erupted at Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team, just as fans were filing in for a Tuesday evening game with the St. Louis Cardinals. The fire erupted in a luxury box immediately adjacent to the press box. Witnesses who were in the stadium at about 6 p.m. when the fire started said it was preceded by an explosion that "sounded like a cannon."

Letter from Geneva

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

The writer, who is a member of the Jordan Times editorial staff, is a member of the U.N. Human Rights Committee.

THE EXAMINATION of the second periodic report of Egypt by the Human Rights Committee (HRC) in Geneva continued for the second day running Tuesday. The attention of the committee members number 18 human rights experts centred on the Copts in Egypt. To the Egyptian delegation, there are simply no minorities in Egypt that qualify for special protection under Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and that includes the Copts. "Not so," said Mrs. Rosalyn Higgins, a renowned international jurist at the London School of Economics, who called on the Egyptian delegation not to be ashamed to admit that there are minorities in Egypt.

The rest of the Western experts and others from Latin America supported Mrs. Higgins' protestations and backed her position which called for clear admission by the visiting Egyptian delegation that the Christians of Egypt constitute in fact a religious minority. The Egyptian delegation found this stance puzzling and insisted that in Egypt there is but one people and one race belonging to more than one faith. Can the Copts who are Egyptian through and through still be classified as a minority simply because they belong to another faith than the majority of the people? Where do we draw the line? queried the leader of the Egyptian delegation, in the determination to find out who is and who is not a minority in any given country.

The other troubling matter faced by the Egyptian delegation in their presentation of their country's report on the extent of the adherence of the government of Egypt to the ICCPR was the liberal use of the term of "terrorism" under the relevant Egyptian legislation that serves as the backbone of the emergency regime in the country. Many experts took issue with the definition of terrorism under Egyptian laws especially since it appeared to be very broad indeed and covers even the attempt to use force or violence.

To many members of the committee the purview of "terrorism" under Egyptian law leaves much to be desired, especially when taken against the backdrop that "terrorism" in Egypt calls for the application of the death sentence, something that Article 6 of the ICCPR frowns upon and calls for phasing out that type of punishment.

The Egyptian delegation promised at the end of their cross examination to take home the views and concerns of the committee

comments on the Egyptian case to be transmitted to Cairo in due course with a view to having them incorporated in Egyptian legislation and practices, some members from the Islamic World are expected to water down the severe criticism that Egypt was confronted with when the final comments on Egypt are adopted. On balance Cairo faced more than it had bargained for in its appearance before the HRC. It is also fair to say that Egypt's report was subjected to a more severe scrutiny than many other similar state reports.

Israelis end strike

TEL AVIV (AP) — Trade unionists reached an agreement with the government Wednesday enabling civil servants to return to their jobs after a two-week strike that paralysed government offices.

The agreement was hammered out during a marathon 16-hour meeting between the strike leaders and finance ministry officials.

Reuven Ben-Ami, secretary of the Histadrut trade federation, said on army radio that the workers would return immediately.

About 50,000 civil servants first went on strike July 7, but the labour unrest snowballed with an additional 10,000 government workers abandoning their jobs in solidarity.

On Sunday, police water cannons dispersed some 2,500 protesting strikers blocking a road outside of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office.

Four unions originally demanded a 35 per cent wage increase over three to four years, but settled for an average 20 per cent increase over the next 2 and a half years, army radio said.

Under the agreement, the strikers will be paid for the strike period.

During the strike, Israelis were unable to register births, get marriage licenses or watch educational television. The strikers covered a broad spectrum of workers, including customs officials and weathermen.

Maybe this will improve the weather, joked meteorologist Eliezer Danziger, who returned to his job and promptly announced an army radio a sultry summer forecast for the first time in two weeks.

At one point during the strike, entrepreneurial Israelis made quick trips abroad to scurry in electronic goods past empty custom tax counters.

Israelis view 'confederation' as circumvention

(Continued from page 1)

links with Israel which would use cheaper labour there to manufacture Israeli goods which would be exported to the Arab World via Jordan. Jordan would provide a hinterland to which Palestinians unemployed in the "entity" would flock in search of employment. Thus Jordan would become a dumping ground for the proportion of the rapidly growing population the "entity" cannot absorb.

Even if the PLO and the negotiating team from the territories manage to alter the "Madrid formula" so that the "final status" of the territories (and perhaps even East Jerusalem) is put on the agenda in the coming rounds of the bilateral talks instead of being postponed until three years after the autonomy regime is established, Israel will continue its conquest of Palestinian land unchecked. An authoritative Palestinian source close to the negotiations says that the U.S., the "full partner" in the peace process, had told the Palestinians that provisions calling upon the parties not to alter the status of the territories were "unenforceable" and that the "letter of assurances" given to the Palestinians by former Secretary of State James Baker before Madrid was a "dead letter."

Settlements and roads have always been physical means of staking claim to the bulk of the land of the occupied territories, which comprise only 20 per cent of the whole of Palestine. The proportion of land devoted to roads — 6.8 per cent of the total — is the largest in the world. The new roads are designed as direct links between settlements, bypassing Palestinian population centres.

Major settlements have been established according to plan; along the old "green line" dividing the occupied territories from "Israel proper," around Jerusalem and between Bethlehem and Hebron and Kalkilya and Nablus. Through settlement, on about 10 per cent of the land of the West Bank and Gaza, and confiscation of more than 40 per cent of the land, Israel can now claim control of more than half the land in both territories.

Israelis have put forward a variety of proposals for a final territorial settlement with the Palestinians. Most call for the creation of enclaves or "cantons" around major Palestinian towns. On May 7, 1993, the Haaretz daily published a map delineating the three Palestinian enclaves included on the accompanying map, which also shows settlements. According to this map: all the major and many secondary Israeli settlements would fall within the areas remaining under Israeli control. The enclaves would

divide the Palestinian population of the West Bank into the groups: those in the northern, central and southern cantons and those in Arab East Jerusalem, which would be isolated from the cantons.

The cantons would be islands comprising less than 50 per cent of the land of the territories and surrounded by Israeli occupying forces. The cantons would be connected with Jordan by roads under Israeli control and with Israel by westward-leading roads giving the Palestinians Israeli-controlled access to the sea. Palestinians living outside the cantons would be transferred into them. This would mean squeezing over a million Palestinians into less than half the territory they claim as their patrimony and cutting off East Jerusalem's 160,000 Palestinians from their countryside and the 850,000 Palestinians in Gaza from the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Although the Palestinians in the territories have vehemently

rejected cantonisation, Israel has gone ahead with investment in the areas which would, under such a scheme, come under permanent Israeli control. The Israeli press has recently published maps showing that the government's investment priorities were in areas "A" and "B" on the accompanying map, i.e. along the "Green Line," in order to erase it, and in the large tracts of land along the Jordan River and adjacent to the "Green Line." These maps show that the government has placed no priority at all on either public or private investment within "Israel proper." Thus funds are being channelled into the territories at the expense of the majority of Israel's citizens.

If the West Bank were to be cantonised, Gaza would, perforce, become another canton, distant and disconnected from the three West Bank cantons, with no external political outlet for its people. Ever since the intifada erupted in Gaza in 1987, many Israelis have sided with the present peace process. An adviser to the Palestinian team stated categorically that the "Gaza first" scheme was unacceptable because, as he put it, "the West Bank, with Jerusalem as its capital, is the heart of our entity. Nothing can be made of Gaza until the status of the West Bank is determined."

Debate on concept as key

(Continued from page 1)

confederation could infringe on Palestinian sovereignty.

It is not clear how this option, if both sides decide to raise it at the negotiating table, will be handled, especially that the Americans could argue that such a scenario could frog-leap the interim period and prejudice the final outcome of the process.

Nevertheless, most analysts and officials agree that it is high time for the two sides to have a clear understanding of an imposed regional bilateral arrangement that could potentially trigger instability and friction — an outcome that both Jordanians and Palestinians simply cannot afford.

Jordanian officials contacted by the Jordan Times stressed emphatically that what King Hussein and Mr. Arafat talked about was a confederation between "the Arab State of Palestine and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in a clear attempt to allay some Palestinian concerns that the idea of

